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ARAB TIMES

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NEWSWATCH

Dutch issue hard-hitting protest against Iran

THE HAGUE, May 8. (Agencies): The Dutch government today issued a call for a "strong protest" against the Iranian campaign against the West, which was "totally reprehensible," and urged joint Common Market action on the issue.

Britain also hit out at Iran.

The Dutch government welcomed the PLO's rejection of the call on Palestinians by Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, to kill American, French and British citizens because of their governments' support for Israel, according to a Foreign Ministry spokesman here.

Rafsanjani also urged Palestinians to hijack Western airplanes in response to Israeli repression in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

Mohammed Taghi Mousavi, Iran's ambassador to the Netherlands, was issued a "strong protest" by a senior Dutch official after he was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, according to the spokesman.

Britain today stepped up criticism of Iran for urging Palestinians to kill Westerners and hijack airlines.

The Foreign Office said in London it was deeply concerned at the threat by Rafsanjani.

Pan Am bombing

MUNICH, May 8. (AP): The destruction of Pan Am Flight 103 was ordered by Iran and was carried out by a radical Palestinian group paid by the Tehran government, a West German magazine said today.

The Pan Am flight was bombed in revenge for the shooting down of an Iranian civilian jet by the US Navy in the Gulf, the Munich-based magazine Quick said.

Pan Am Flight 103 blew up over Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec 21, 1988, killing all 259 people aboard and 11 on the ground.

British investigators have said the plane was destroyed by a bomb.

40 died

Fire-storm

DUBAI, May 8. (Reuters): Spilled fuel from a tanker caught fire and set the sea alight at the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas last month, Iranian shipping sources in the Gulf said today.

Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence said earlier about 40 people were killed by an explosion aboard an Iranian tanker unloading jet fuel at the southern port.

It said several small boats were destroyed in a subsequent fire in the incident which it said took place on April 29 or 30.

The Iranian sources, who said the fire occurred on April 26, had no knowledge of casualties and denied there had been an explosion.

WEATHER

CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather with light to moderate southerly wind which may freshen at times.

State of sea: moderate

High water: 3.00 am, 1.30 pm

Low water: 8.00 am, 9.00 pm

Sunrise: 5.00 am

Sunset: 6.29 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 32°C 90°F

Ahmed: 28°C 82°F

Falaka: 28°C 82°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 21°C 70°F

Ahmed: 22°C 72°F

Falaka: 22°C 72°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 32°C 90°F

Ahmed: 28°C 82°F

Falaka: 28°C 82°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 58 per cent

Ahmed: 60 per cent

Falaka: 65 per cent

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آج کے اہم واقعات

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○ تھیلان کا اعلان "مہارت میں مسلم

○ کرکٹوں میں تصادم سعودی عرب ایران

○ کے ج کور میں اتفاق نہیں کرے گا



Soccer thug
A young Greek football fan cries in pain as he is carried by his friends to the first aid room at the Athens Olympic stadium. He badly cut his arm during fighting after a First Division soccer match. (Reuter wirephoto)

See Greek fans Page 20

UK condemns Israeli violence

Jews stone Arab cars

LONDON, May 8. (Reuters): Britain today condemned Israel's use of violence in the Gaza Strip after one of the bloodiest episodes in the Arab uprising in the occupied territories.

"We are shocked and saddened by reports of violent clashes in the Gaza Strip at the weekend," the Foreign Office said.

"The human cost of the tactics pursued by the Israeli forces is intolerable, as we have consistently made clear."

Israeli troops yesterday confined almost half a million Arabs to their homes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip after soldiers killed three protesters and shot 142.

A UN relief and works agency spokesman said 400 Arabs were injured in riots at the end of the Muslim Ramadan religious festival on Saturday.

More than 50 Israelis hurled stones at Arab cars outside the southern town of Ashdod today after the funeral of a soldier believed killed by Palestinian kidnappers.

Troops barred the 1.7 million Arabs of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip from entering Israel for two days and confined Gaza residents to their homes indefinitely from this evening.

"We are closing the areas to prevent uprising activities," the Army spokesman said. Israel's independence day immediately follows memorial day.

The stone throwing in Ashdod, the third show of Jewish anti-Arab crowd anger in a week, followed the funeral in the town of Sergeant Avi Sasportas, 21, who vanished while hitch-hiking home from his base in mid-February.

The rear window of a car with Gaza licence plates was smashed by a large stone and another Gaza car was abandoned by the roadside, the witnesses said.

Police diverted cars with Gaza or West Bank licence plates from the highway to prevent further attacks on Arabs, witnesses said.

Troops searched the Gaza Strip for signs of another uprising.



Nakajima

WHO meeting Debate on PLO put off

GENEVA, May 8. (UPI): The World Health Organisation (WHO) began its 1989 annual assembly today amid intensive efforts to avoid a financial and political crisis over a Palestinian membership bid.

WHO spokesman Gino Levi said discussion of the membership application which had been scheduled for tomorrow morning was put back to Wednesday afternoon.

WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima for his part tried but failed to persuade PLO chairman Yasser Arafat to withdraw the membership application.

soldier, Iman Saadon, 19, who disappeared while hitch-hiking on Wednesday.

■ The Secretary-General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Dr George Habash today called for escalating armed struggle against Israel which occupies the Palestinian homeland and practices all sorts of terrorism and repression against the Palestinian people.

Saudis rule out bigger haj quota for Iran

NICOSIA, May 8. (Reuters): Saudi Arabia yesterday ruled out an increase in the number of Iranians allowed to attend this year's haj pilgrimage but denied claims by Tehran officials that it was trying to exclude them altogether.

"These are false allegations," the Saudi Press Agency quoted an official source in the Pilgrimage Ministry as saying. "Saudi Arabia welcomes the Iranian pilgrims to this year's haj as long as Iran sticks to its 45,000 quota."

The officials also said Riyadh would use Islamic sharia law to punish those responsible for any disturbances this year.

"Saudi Arabia refuses to endanger the lives of pilgrims in the holy city of Makkah by demonstrations and violence... and it will use Islamic sharia for punishment," the agency quoted him as saying.

The ministry source in Riyadh said Saudi Arabia would not raise the quota because "this will cause disturbance in the measures taken for organising pilgrims."

Call for selective immigration policy

Link wages with productivity: exploit resources

By Hussain Salameh

KUWAIT'S main long-term development challenge is amending the present demographic imbalance between Kuwaitis and expatriates. Studies undertaken indicate that there is a defect in the social and economic structure in Kuwait and plans should be developed to adopt "selective immigration policies."

The long-term strategic development plan recently approved by the Higher Planning Council, is being studied by the Council of Ministers for final approval. The plan is Kuwait's main guideline for development purposes for the next 25 years.

The plan calls for streamlining the education system and emphasising the need to change the concept of government employment policy by linking wages with productivity.

The economic boom in the '70s and the beginning of the '80s helped the country's population increase from only 700,000 in 1970 to 1.7 million in 1985. This made the various economic activities depend mainly upon expatriate manpower. The change in the life mode of the Kuwaitis and the country as a whole helped increase this influx of expatriate manpower into the country.

The long-term strategic development plan has determined six main areas which should be achieved in the long run. These include: political and security stability, adhering to the teachings of Islam in building man and society, providing more attention to family welfare plans, utilising the achievements of other civilisations in building the modern state, diversifying and expanding the production base through co-operation between public and private sectors and strengthening the identity of the Kuwaiti society as part of the Gulf family and the Arab nation who are working within the Islamic nation to serve mankind.

The strategy has also pinpointed the available resources and capabilities in the country and its main challenge.

Among the main resources available in Kuwait is a stable political climate and the support of the people, the capability of the Kuwaiti society to face various economic crisis, the availability of a high experienced commercial body in addition to a free market policy.

Among other resources and bases for development is the availability of a complete legislative and organisational base and the completion of the country's infrastructure. Huge oil reserves can provide the need for future development besides the country's population comprising the majority of youths.

The plan describes amending the demographic structure as the first developmental challenge. Optimum use of the country's oil resources should be channelled into reinvesting in building capable human resources as the second challenge and the small size of Kuwait's market needs to look for markets outside the country's geographic borders as the third challenge.

The strategy pointed out that the prime task of the strategic plan is the building and qualification of the Kuwaiti people through strengthening the patriotic feeling, coping with the scientific and technological advances, adopting a clear economic path.

The strategy calls upon the government to involve themselves actively in the activities of the private sector in accordance with certain well-planned measures to change the policy of government aid to the private establishments to be linked with performance and productivity.

The long-term strategy plan also called for converting the oil assets into more developed technical and administrative capabilities.

The resources and capabilities available in the country, can easily promote a full-fledged development based upon pre-planned policies. Kuwait's success in trading and creation of a capable and highly experienced training body is evidence of its expertise and capabilities, the report says.

Kuwait has succeeded in achieving and maintaining a high living standard for its people. It has succeeded in constructing the country's infrastructure and provided health, educational, social services and completed the organisation of various state institutions.

The change in conditions and factors that prevailed in the past three decades and the rise of many local, regional and international problems, necessitated the presence of a full-fledged development strategy for the country, the report said. "This strategy should pinpoint the goals and objectives of the development plan."

(Continued on Page 7, Col. 1)



High priestess

Sara Maria Aldrete, the high priestess of a drug cult group, answers questions at a news conference in Mexico City. Police arrested Aldrete, with four other members of the ring linked to the murders of 15 people in Malamoros, Mexico. (Reuter wirephoto)

See Cult leader Page 2

Riots in India during Eid: 13 die, 50 injured

NEW DELHI, May 8. (AP): Police opened fire when rival groups of Muslims rioted during Eid Al Fitr celebrations in the western town of Mangrol, and at least 13 people were killed, news reports said today.

It was not immediately clear how many died when the Muslims battled each other with swords, steel bars, stones and bottles last night.

At least 50 people were injured in the clash in Mangrol, 950 kilometres (590 miles) southwest of New Delhi, the Times of India said.

The English-language newspaper quoted police in the remote part of Gujarat state as saying six people died, on the streets, of bullet wounds and seven died on the way to a hospital. Police said some of the victims may have died of injuries inflicted by the mob, the Times added.

United News of India and Press Trust of India also said police opened fire to quell the violence. Both agencies said police fired about 20 rounds. A deputy police superintendent was seriously injured by the mob, they said.

Lightning killed 11 people in the southern state of Kerala, including five guests at a wedding feast, UNI said today.

The change in conditions and factors that prevailed in the past three decades and the rise of many local, regional and international problems, necessitated the presence of a full-fledged development strategy for the country, the report said. "This strategy should pinpoint the goals and objectives of the development plan."

(Continued on Page 7, Col. 1)

Fresh artillery blitz hits Beirut

Germans to transmit demands

BEIRUT, May 8. (Agencies): Artillery shells rained down on Beirut and surrounding districts today, sending civilians rushing in panic back to shelters after a brief morning lull in the battles devastating the Lebanese capital.

And in West Germany, two relief workers said they were freed to transmit the demands of their abductors.

Hundreds of shells crashed into residential areas and set buildings on fire in Christian East Beirut, held by troops loyal to Christian Army commander Major General Michel Aoun.

Shells also slammed into West Beirut, controlled by the Syrian Army. Scores of cars were set ablaze and a fire raged close to the Central Bank, covering fashionable Hamra Street with huge plumes of black and white smoke.

At least four people were killed and 13 wounded in the bombardments, security sources said.

Witnesses said panic-stricken Syrian soldiers dived for cover when shells hit their checkpoints along the seafront in West Beirut.

The artillery battles erupted anew between Aoun's forces and Syrian troops backing Muslim militias in defiance of an Arab League ceasefire which had been effectively buried by fierce shelling yesterday.

In Tunis, Arab League sources said it would not send ceasefire observers to Lebanon until the combatants observed the truce which it ordered on April 28.

The ceasefire had been broken several times before yesterday's devastating bombardments and Syria's militia allies have said they will shell Christian ports until the observers arrive.

The sources said the Arab League's special Lebanon envoy, Lakhdar Ibrahim, and the observer force's commander, Brigadier Ali Al Moumen of Kuwait, would probably visit Damascus and Beirut to try to enforce the ceasefire.

In Frankfurt, lawyers defending Lebanese hijacker Mohammed Ali Hammadi asked today for a prison sentence of no more than eight years, saying his youth and renunciation of violence justified a lenient term.

Hammadi is charged with murder and air piracy in the June 1985 diversion of a Trans World Airlines jet to Beirut in which a US Navy diver aboard was shot dead.

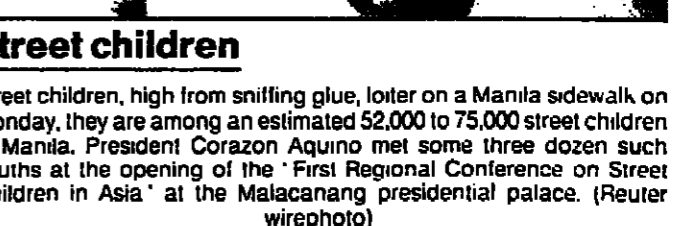
It is not known who was behind the kidnapping of Marcus Quint in south Lebanon last Thursday, but Lebanese security sources have linked his seizure with the Hammadi case.

Two West German relief workers said today they were freed from brief captivity last week to transmit the demands of the kidnappers holding Quint.

It was first time the pair, Heinrich Struwig and Petra Schnitzler, met with the press since they were abducted by five gunmen on the outskirts of south Lebanon's provincial capital of Sidon on Thursday night and freed the next morning.

"We were freed in the early morning of May 5 to transmit the orders of the kidnappers to the responsible authorities in West Germany," said a statement in English they handed out.

But they refused to spell out the demands at the news conference.



Street children
Street children, high from sniffing glue, loiter on a Manila sidewalk on Monday. They are among an estimated 52,000 to 75,000 street children in Manila. President Corason Aquino met some three dozen such youths at the opening of the 'First Regional Conference on Street Children in Asia' at the Malacanang presidential palace. (Reuter wirephoto)

Senate has last say on bases: Cory

MANILA, May 8. (UPI): President Corason Aquino said today any new arrangement reached with the United States extending the lease on key American military bases will have to be ratified by the Philippine Senate as stated in the constitution.

"In the matter of tying our country in so far as the bases are concerned, I can never do that because our constitution specifically says that after 1991, no foreign bases will be allowed on our country unless there is a new treaty ratified by the Senate," Aquino said.

"So, when I mentioned before there will be talks on the new bases, these will be talks to find out whether indeed the bases should go or the bases should stay, but always thinking this needs a new treaty and that only the Senate can ratify the treaty," she said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Seoul crackdown

SEOUL, South Korea, May 8. (AP): Police arrested a dissident leader today as part of a crackdown on anti-government groups, while the Defence Ministry warned it would block strikes in key industries.

Police announced the arrest of Lee Chang-Bok, a leader of the nation's main dissident alliance, the United National Democratic Movement, on charges of violating national security laws. Officials said Lee had supported Communist North Korea and organised strikes and violent demonstrations.

Post robbery

AVELLINO, Italy, May 8. (Reuters): Five armed men seized the equivalent of more than \$4 million in cash from a post office in southern Italy today.

Police said the gang tricked their way into the main provincial office in the town of Avellino in a hijacked post office van and then forced staff at gunpoint to load the vehicle with cash and cheques. Police found the van and its hijacked driver abandoned a few km (miles) away and said the gang had fled in cars.

Song contest

SAN REMO, Italy, May 8. (AP): Police have been investigating allegations that some singers had to pay bribes of up to \$85,000 to perform in the San Remo Festival, Italy's most popular annual pop-song contest.

Court sources said today that the results of the two-month investigation by the Carabinieri, Italy's paramilitary police, have been given to Ugo Guidicciandrea, the chief prosecutor in Rome who will decide whether to file charges.

Police said the charges under consideration include extortion and swindle.

Cholera kills 23

DAR ES SALAAM, May 8. (AP): A cholera epidemic in central Tanzania has killed 23 people within the last three months, the official news agency reported today.

Shitani said the outbreak began early January around the district capital of Singida, 560 kms (347 miles) west of the Indian Ocean port of Dar Es Salaam. At least 35 people had also been hospitalised, the news agency said.

Burmese attack

MAE SOT, Thailand, May 8. (AP): Burmese troops attacked rebel bases near the Thai frontier and crossed into Thailand in one point in the fighting, Thai military sources said today.

About 30 Burmese soldiers and 10 guerrillas were reported killed and more than 70 wounded on both sides when about 2,500 troops attacked Karen strongholds at Wan Kha and Ban Wang Taktian yesterday.

Electronics ban

WASHINGTON, May 8. (AP): The US government says it might prohibit airline passengers from taking aboard portable computers, tape players, hair dryers and other electronic devices as a stopgap measure against terrorist bombings.

The ban, covering items carried by hand or in luggage, would prevent such items from being used to smuggle plastic explosives aboard planes until sophisticated bomb-detection devices can be installed at high risk airports around the world.

Secrets act

LONDON, May 8. (AP): New legislation to replace the present Official Secrets Act dating from 1911, which will cut down on some of the government's present sweeping powers but tighten up in other areas, completed its passage through Parliament Tuesday night.

The new measure now awaits only the formality of royal assent, which as a constitutional monarch Queen Elizabeth II cannot refuse, before becoming law later this year, although no date for this has been announced.

Explosion

JOHANNESBURG, May 8. (AP): A bomb exploded at the home of a National Party Member of Parliament, causing extensive damage, but no injury to his wife and daughter, who were asleep at the time, police said today.

"It was the first terrorist attack on the home of a white Member of Parliament," government-run Radio South Africa said today after the explosion at the home of B.L. "Boy" Geldenhuys in Randfontein Park, west of Johannesburg.

Talks refused

BEIJING, May 8. (AP): Government officials today refused to begin talks immediately with an independent group of university students formed after weeks of unprecedented pro-democracy demonstrations, the students said.

A group of journalists working for state-controlled media but inspired by the protests for freedom planned to seek their own talks with propaganda and publishing officials to push for an easing of press restrictions.

Election victory

LA PAZ, Bolivia, May 8. (AP): the governing party candidate today declared an upset election victory over a former military dictator, but the newly chosen Congress will have final word on who becomes president.

Direct election occurs only when a candidate wins more than 50 per cent of the total vote, and no one did.

Appeal for cash

OXFORD, May 8. (AP): Britain's oldest museum, the Ashmolean in the university city of Oxford, launched an appeal today for £3.2 million (\$5.3 million) to cope with a financial crisis.

Dr Christopher White, the director, said funds were urgently needed to offset an annual deficit of £95,000 (\$158,650) and avoid regular closing of galleries, staff reductions and imposing admission charges. He said lack of money had already forced the museum to close on Mondays.

'He was telling him do it, do it. If you don't do it, you're going to pay with circumstances in hell'.

Cult leader wanted to die

De Leon killed Constanzo

MEXICO CITY, May 8. (AP): Surrounded by police, the leader of a drug-smuggling cult accused of the ritual mutilation-slayings of 15 people along the US border ordered a subordinate to kill him or suffer in the afterlife.

"He said to kill him because if I didn't it was going to go very badly for me in hell," Alvaro de Leon Valdez, 22, told a news conference yesterday.

De Leon killed cult leader Adolfo de Jesus Constanzo and the ringleader's right-hand man with a machine-gun as police closed in on the Mexico City apartment where the gang was hiding, the attorney-general's office said.

"He went crazy, crazy," De Leon Valdez said.

De Leon Valdez, along with four other people including 24-year-old Sara Maria Aldrete Villarreal, described by authorities as the "witch" of the cult, were arrested after Saturday's shootout.

The attorney-general's office presented the five to reporters yesterday. They stood behind a table covered with cult items found in the apartment, including two swords, black candles, a skull apparently made of white wax and a blindfolded doll holding another doll.

Authorities have said they believe Constanzo, 26, and Aldrete directed human sacrifices, mutilations and the boiling of brains and other organs in rituals to bring occult protection to their ring, which dealt mostly in marijuana.

The bodies of the victims, including a University of Texas student, were found buried on a ranch in Matamoros near the US border beginning April 11.

Aldrete, who referred to Constanzo as El Padrino, or godfather, said she had nothing to do with the slayings and learned about them in television reports.

"I couldn't believe it. It was amazing," said the former honour student at Texas southernmost college in Brownsville, Texas.

The search for Mark Kilroy of Santa Fe, Texas, who disappeared while on spring break in Matamoros, across the border from Brownsville, led to discovery of the bodies at the Santa Elena ranch.

Asked who killed Kilroy, Aldrete said: "Adolfo."

De Leon Valdez said he was present when the young American was killed with a machete chop to the head. Kilroy's spinal column was removed for a necklace, he said.

"I feel sorry because when he disappeared I was trying to help the (Kilroy) family," Aldrete said in response to reporters' questions.

Aldrete said that shortly before Constanzo was killed he was shouting that he and close associate Martin Quintana Rodriguez should be "killed since everything was finished for them."

"He was telling him 'do it, do it. If you don't do it, you're going to pay with circumstances in hell'."

Their bodies were found slumped together inside a tiny closet of the apartment.

Aldrete told authorities Constanzo had invited her to join "Christian Santeria" and asked her to use voodoo to help people with problems. Abraham Polo Uscanga, deputy city attorney-general, said.

She said Constanzo initiated her into the cult in 1988.

Asked if she was in love with Constanzo, a Cuban-American who grew up in suburban Miami, Aldrete said: "No, but I followed him."

Santeria is a blend of Catholicism and old African beliefs that includes animal sacrifices and is an offshoot of voodoo.

The murders were carried out in a "little temple." A small building on the ranch, and body parts were put in a cauldron, De Leon Valdez said.

Bodies exhumed on the ranch had brains, hearts, sexual organs and other parts removed.

De Leon Valdez said Constanzo told them the people were killed "so that it would go better for us on the road, in the future."

Neighbours said the group had been living for about two weeks in the fourth-floor apartment of the rust-coloured apartment building in a quiet neighbourhood of the capital.

On Sunday, police armed with machine-guns sat in a truck outside the apartment building, saying they were there to ensure no one tampered with evidence.

Police sealed off the apartment. Seen through a keyhole, the place was a shambles. A chair and bed were turned sideways and litter was strewn about the floor.

Swedish politicians killed in air crash

Plane explodes

OSKARSHAMN, Sweden, May 8. (AP): A small passenger plane on a domestic flight crashed on landing today, killing at least five Swedish political figures and 11 other passengers and crew, officials said.

The politicians were on an official inquiry for the Parliament into Sweden's telecommunications and internal air mail links, said a Parliament spokeswoman.

Three of the victims were current Parliament members, one was a former member and one was the longtime Stockholm party boss of the ruling Social Democrats, John-Olle Persson, the Swedish national radio reported.

The plane, a twin-engine Beechcraft 99, hit the runway nose first, caught fire and exploded, witnesses told rescue workers. The cause of the crash was not immediately determined.

Police said 14 passengers and two crewmen were listed on the flight when the aircraft left Stockholm's Arlanda airport for Oskarshamn, a town on Sweden's southeastern coast.

But police duty officer Sigurd Gustafsson said he could not confirm that all the listed passengers were aboard the flight. The fire was too severe to be certain of the number of bodies.

"No one survived the crash," which occurred at about 10 am (0800 GMT), he said.

Gustafsson said skies were clear and there were no strong winds when the accident happened at Virkvarns airport north of Oskarshamn.

The propeller-driven aircraft belonged to the regional airline Holmstrom Flyg, a family company that has seven small planes.

The Rev. Nicolas van Cleef was following orders to drive to Defence Forces headquarters when the gun of a soldier sitting near him went off, church officials said.

They said the priest was arrested after making a reference to the electoral process while using a megaphone to exhort Panamanians to attend mass. Van Cleef reportedly was in grave condition yesterday.

Picture shows Liebenberg leans on the bullet-riddled door of his car. (Reuters wirephoto)



Five alleged members of a voodoo cult in northern Mexico stand before voodoo paraphernalia at a news conference. From left to right: Maria del Rocio Cuevas Guerra, Alvaro de Leon, Omar Francisco Orea Ochoa, Maria de Lourdes Bueno Lopez, Sara Maria Aldrete Villarreal. And in the right picture De Leon shows reporters satanic symbols scratched on his shoulders. (Reuters wirephoto)

Panama polls

Call for march to protest elections

PANAMA CITY, Panama, May 8. (AP): Opposition leaders called for a massive march today to protest the alleged theft by Gen. Antonio Manuel Noriega's forces of a presidential election they claimed their candidate won decisively.

The government also claimed victory in yesterday's largely peaceful balloting, though official results had not yet been released.

Turnout was high and many people had to wait in line several hours to cast ballots for president, two vice presidents and the national assembly in what was considered a referendum on Noriega's hold on power.

The opposition claimed that the 15,000-strong Defence Forces, which Noriega heads, had perpetrated widespread fraud, with many soldiers voting more than once. Some foreign observers reported irregularities.

"Despite all the irregularities, the opposition has triumphed," opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara told a news conference last night. He claimed to have won a 2-to-1 margin over Noriega's hand-picked candidate, Carlos Duque.

At his news conference, Duque called opposition talk of fraud "childish." A late-night communique from the pro-government coalition said, "we can affirm that our triumph is decisive, just honest and perfectly clear."

Government candidates have been holding "victory dinners" for the past week.

The government promised results by today evening and declared today a holiday. The opposition called for an afternoon protest march and threatened a general strike.

Merchants in areas with a tradition of political turbulence boarded up windows and people stocked up on food and other necessities, recalling political violence and general strikes of early 1988.

The government coalition released an exit poll of 18,136 voters that it said showed Duque winning by a margin of 50.9 per cent to 44.7 per cent. The opposition released an exit poll of 1,022 voters showing Endara leading Duque 55.1 per cent to 39.5 per cent.

In the only reported election day violence, the Roman Catholic Church said a Dutch priest was seriously injured when he was shot, apparently accidentally, following his arrest in the western province of Chiriqui.

The Rev. Nicolas van Cleef was following orders to drive to Defence Forces headquarters when the gun of a soldier sitting near him went off, church officials said.

They said the priest was arrested after making a reference to the electoral process while using a megaphone to exhort Panamanians to attend mass. Van Cleef reportedly was in grave condition yesterday.

Picture shows Liebenberg leans on the bullet-riddled door of his car. (Reuters wirephoto)

Policy emerges as Cory speaks

Filipino Army sgt shot dead

MANILA, May 8. (AP): Hours after last month's slaying of an American colonel, President Corason Aquino was asked her reaction to the killings. She said US security must have been inadequate.

A few days later, Aquino told reporters she expected preliminary talks on a new treaty on US military bases, one of the country's most divisive issues, would begin this year.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, clearly caught by surprise at the apparent policy reversal, issued his own statement insisting the government has still not decided whether to allow the bases to remain after their lease expires in 1991.

The two statements are examples of Aquino's tendency to make off-the-cuff public statements, which appear overly simplistic and display a lack of skill in communicating policy.

"It's amazing how President Aquino is now often caught blurring out things that other statesmen would hesitate to say under the same circumstances," said Federico Pascual, editor-in-chief of the independent Philippine Daily Inquirer.

"We don't know if these were remarks made for calculated effect or were lapses whose implications were not immediately clear to the President," he added.

Sometimes, Aquino's responses open her to ridicule. Last year, she was asked to comment on newspaper reports here that the latest edition of the Oxford unabridged dictionary had defined "Filipina" or female

Filipino, as a domestic servant. Aquino said the entry was offensive and she would instruct the Department of Foreign Affairs to file a protest with the publishers. She later learned the dictionary contained no such entry.

Often, Aquino's answers to reporters' questions on important national issues appeared aimed at dodging responsibility, and display a strangely detached view of events.

After commission rebels killed US Army Col. James "Nick" Rowe April 21, Aquino said American officials here had been stepping up security but the measures were obviously insufficient.

Protection of American and other foreign officials here is the responsibility of the Philippine government.

Only later, when she visited the US embassy for a memorial service, did she express grief at the death of an officer assigned here to assist her own armed forces.

At times, Aquino's responses raise doubts whether her views as publicly conveyed are based on solid analysis of complex issues.

During a recent conversation with reporters, Aquino was asked to comment on reports from a left-wing West German publication that US Ambassador Nicholas Platt was a Central Intelligence Agency

operative. Instead of dismissing the claim, Aquino suggested the State Department should comment publicly on the charge. That appeared to give credence to the allegation, made by former CIA operative Philip Agee, and served to keep the charge alive.

Her remark also offended nationally minded Filipino nationalists, who pointed out that the State Department would never comment on such a charge anyway and to request it to do so publicly was embarrassing to both governments.

Eventually, Aquino said she was satisfied with Platt's denial of the charge.

Japan leadership issue hots up

Nakasone must testify: Ito

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Ito also wants a free hand to fill the cabinet and top party posts, the aide said.

A government official who last week travelled with Takeshita on a five-nation trip to South-East Asia confirmed Ito was holding out over the Nakasone testimony issue. Nakasone allegedly received unlisted shares from Recruit company in return for favours.

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Despite intense opposition and ruling Liberal Democratic



Ito: insisting

Party (LDP) pressure, Nakasone has refused to testify under oath but has agreed to simply answer questions.

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The government official said Takeshita's camp was, meanwhile, trying to allay any impression that it was commandeering the succession decision process.

"They don't want to look like they're putting Ito into the arena," he said. "They don't want to be seen flexing their muscles to bring Ito in but in reality they want to keep the reins as much as possible."

Takeshita said during his trip that ended on Sunday he would personally ask Ito this week to succeed him.

Ito, who was briefly caretaker prime minister in 1980, is generally seen as untainted by the Recruit scandal.

Recruit, a property and telecommunications company, gave huge donations of money and unlisted stock to top politicians in exchange for favours.

Three of Takeshita's cabinet have resigned and so far 13 people have been arrested in the affair.

It would be turning this conservative, male-dominated country on its ear, but there's a chance that a socialist woman could be prime minister of Japan.

Takako Doi, 60, a doctor's daughter from Kobe, is chairwoman of the Japan Socialist Party, the largest opposition party. And she is pressing the opposition's case strongly amid the debacle around the scandal-plagued LDP.

Doi, a veteran of 20 years in Parliament, repeatedly puts the opposition forward as a viable alternative to the Liberal Democrats.

operative. Instead of dismissing the claim, Aquino suggested the State Department should comment publicly on the charge. That appeared to give credence to the allegation, made by former CIA operative Philip Agee, and served to keep the charge alive.

Her remark also offended nationally minded Filipino nationalists, who pointed out that the State Department would never comment on such a charge anyway and to request it to do so publicly was embarrassing to both governments.

Eventually, Aquino said she was satisfied with Platt's denial of the charge.

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Petros: recuperating

Attempt on former minister

ATHENS, May 8. (Reuters): Former Greek Public Order Minister George Petros narrowly escaped death today when a huge remote-controlled bomb destroyed his car.

The explosives were packed in a car parked about 150 metres (yards) from Petros' home in the northern district of Paleo Psychico and were detonated as his chauffeur-driven car passed.

The blast destroyed Petros' red BMW car, blowing out its windows, puncturing its tyres and twisting the chassis.

Petros escaped without serious injury.

He was treated for shock and glass was removed from his face but his life was not in danger, police said. Two others in the car, the chauffeur and a bodyguard, were also treated for minor injuries in hospital.

Police described the blast as a massive explosion which blew out windows 300 metres and cut electricity and telephone lines.

It was a carbon copy of the method used by the left-wing November 17 guerrilla group to assassinate US military Attache William Nordeen on June 28 last year.

Police sources said they had received a manifesto claiming responsibility but declined to give any details or say whether November 17 was involved.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Best Thatcher jokes

LONDON, May 8, (UPI): For a woman who describes herself as "a boring workaholic" Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has inspired a lot of jokes.

The country celebrated her 10 years in office May 4 with a documentaries, articles, books, broadcasts, mementoes and plenty of laughs.

Did you hear the one about her cabinet? In a rare show of extravagance, Thatcher invited her entire cabinet to dinner at an expensive restaurant, according to "The World's Best Maggie Thatcher Jokes." "What would you like to have for the main course, madam?" asked the waiter. "Steak," she replied. "And how about the vegetables, madam?" "They'll have steak, too."

Another of the book's jokes: "Margaret Thatcher died and arrived at the gates of heaven. To nobody's surprise except her own, she was turned away and told to seek accommodation elsewhere. About an hour later, St. Peter was roused by a loud knocking at his door. He went outside to find 200 devils looking for political asylum."

Thatcher emerged from her 10 Downing Street office in March with news of her grandson's birth, pronouncing "we are a grand-mother." In addition to confirming suspicious she has become all too real, the comment yielded a front-page cartoon of a babe in Thatcher's arms who boasted, "We are a grandson."

One of the biggest crowd-drawers in a week of Maggie madness, was Saturday night's special edition of "Spitting Image," a satirical puppet show, entitled "The sound of Maggie." Billed as the show that "Never ends," the 45-minute programme set in a theatre featured a duet with Thatcher and Argentine President Galtieri called "Send in the troops" which poked fun at the 74-day Falklands war in 1982, and "I want to be like America," a number in which Thatcher envies Yanks for not having to curtsy to a queen.

"When you are tracing the landmarks of a decade of Thatcherism there are bound to be a lot of unpleasant things," said David Tyler, co-producer of the show that has portrayed Thatcher as everything from former President Reagan's poodle to an alien.

Virus-like infectious agent

WASHINGTON, May 8, (KUNA): A government scientist who claims to have discovered a "virus-like infectious agent" in some AIDS patients has reported that the mysterious microbe is capable of causing a fatal infection in experimental animals.

Shyh-Ching Lo of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology has suggested that his virus-like agent may represent "a new opportunistic infection" in AIDS patients or, more intriguingly, may play "a more fundamental role as a cofactor" in AIDS. In some cases, a cofactor is necessary in addition to another to cause a disease. Or, a cofactor simply may predispose a person to a primary cause.

Ritalin eases mental troubles

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8, (AP): Mental and emotional troubles caused by AIDS virus infections eased after patients took the anti-hyperactivity drug Ritalin in a new study, a researcher said.

Dr. Francisco Fernandez stressed, however, that Ritalin is not a cure, but rather a helpful auxiliary treatment for some mood and thinking problems caused by the AIDS virus. When the virus attacks the brain, it can cause mood swings, confusion, apathy, depression and anxiety.

Warhol was addicted to valium

NEW YORK, May 8, (Reuters): Pop artist Andy Warhol was addicted to the tranquilliser valium in the months before he died in 1987 of heart failure, according to excerpts of his diary published yesterday.

"When I wake up in the morning I feel aches and pains. And I am addicted to valium," he wrote in excerpts from "The Andy Warhol Diaries" printed by People magazine.



Flash flood

Heavy rains in the Washington area caused flash flooding and the collapse of a parking lot built on top of a creek near Washington. More than 50 cars were damaged and several were swept into the nearby Potomac River. The storm spawned tornadoes in other areas of the East coast. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tribute to a Japanese princess

SEOUL, May 8, (Reuters): Resolutely republican South Koreans paid final tribute today to a Japanese princess who, if things had worked out differently, would have been their queen.

The body of 87-year-old Yi Pang-Ja, who died on April 30, was borne through the streets of Seoul on a richly decorated bier surmounted by carved dragons and brightly colored lanterns.

Scientific tests questioned

BOLOGNA, Italy, May 8, (UPI): Experts on religious artifacts met yesterday and questioned the validity of scientific tests that concluded the Shroud of Turin did not wrap Christ's body.

Authorities such as Brother Bruno Bonnet-Eymard of France said the carbon-dating tests on samples of the Shroud by researchers in England, the United States and Switzerland did not necessarily discredit its authenticity.

Walk for Hunger

BOSTON, May 8, (UPI): The 20th annual Walk for Hunger, America's largest grassroots programme to fight urban hunger, shattered its turnout and fund-raising records yesterday, with 35,000 participants and an estimated \$3.5 million in pledges.

Under warm, sunny skies and a brisk breeze, the influential and the anonymous walk side-by-side for 20 miles (32 km) through Boston, Brookline, Newton and Cambridge.

Charges dropped against worker

MIAMI, May 8, (UPI): The state dropped charges Friday against a former migrant worker imprisoned more than 21 years for the poisoning deaths of his seven children, saying the man probably did not commit the crime.

"It's nice to be free, it is. It feels great," said James Richardson, 53, reached by telephone in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. "I'm planning to have a party. I'm just going to the beach and relaxing and watching the waves and the white sand and the green grass, going to do some fishing."

Anne's maid knows nothing

LONDON, May 8, (AP): Princess Anne's personal maid says she knows nothing about love letters that disappeared from the Princess' briefcase and ended up at a newspaper office.

The disclosure that the queen's daughter had

received personal letters from royal aide Timothy Laurence, a Royal Navy commander, renewed rumours of trouble in her 15-year-old marriage to former Army Captain Mark Phillips.

Universal health insurance

SWARTHMORE, Pennsylvania, May 8, (AP): Criticizing the health care provisions in President George Bush's budget, Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis renewed his call for universal health insurance while commemorating the 125th anniversary of his alma mater.

Dukakis last spoke at Swarthmore College while seeking the Democratic presidential nomination.

Ricciarelli's second performance

MILAN, Italy, May 8, (AP): Italian soprano Katia Ricciarelli says she'll appear in a second performance of Giuseppe Verdi's "Luisa Miller," despite the unflattering reception she got at the opening.

The singer was booed by the audience at the opening performance, which was also panned by critics.

AIDS victim sues government

TOKYO, May 8, (KUNA): Two Japanese carrying the AIDS virus today sued the government and two pharmaceutical companies demanding a compensation of \$170,000.

The two AIDS victims accused the Health Ministry of negligence for allowing the two local companies to import infected plasma. The claim is the first among 2,000 people carriers of the AIDS virus from imported plasma.

Griffin to spend \$50m on plants

NEW YORK, May 8, (AP): Entertainer Merv Griffin is taking his Hollywood know-how to his newly acquired properties on Paradise Island in the Bahamas.

Rules make Devito an actor

NEW YORK, May 8, (AP): Had the rules at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts been different, acid-tongued actor Danny Devito might have been a makeup artist.

Devito, interviewed in Parade magazine, attended the prestigious acting academy, intending to become a Hollywood makeup person. "But you couldn't enroll as a makeup student. You had to enroll as an actor. I got hooked," Devito said. "I got so involved that I was tormented... There was no way out."

James Brown's interview

COLUMBIA, South Carolina, May 8, (AP): The Rev. Jesse Jackson says jailed soul singer James Brown should be allowed to give a television interview to the French government as part of his bicentennial celebration.

Jackson visited Brown at State Park Correctional Centre and asked that the singer be allowed to give the interview.

"James Brown's musical contribution has earned him that honour," Jackson's an unsuccessful candidate last year for the Democratic presidential nomination, said after meeting with Brown.

Actor Guy Williams found dead

BUENOS AIRES, May 8, (Reuters): Former American actor Guy Williams who played the swashbuckling lead in the television series "Zorro", was found dead on Saturday in his Buenos Aires apartment, a police spokesman said yesterday.

Police sources quoted by the state news agency Telam said Williams, 65, may have died up to a week ago of a heart attack. Telam added he was divorced and was survived by two sons.

2.2m crime victims injured in US

WASHINGTON, May 8, (UPI): From 1979 to 1986, an average of 2.2 million crime victims were injured each year nationwide, according to the study by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Of those, an estimated 500,000 were treated at emergency rooms or hospitals, and some 350,000 each year were hospitalized for two or more days, the national crime survey showed.

Increasing violence against boat people

Thai pirates killing hundreds

BANGKOK, May 8, (AP): Thai fishermen have killed or left for dead hundreds of Vietnamese boat people in the last year in what Western officials call a reversal of recent progress against piracy in Southeast Asian waters.

Survivors reaching Malaysia tell of scores of refugees at a time drowning in attacks in which the pirates ram Vietnamese boats, then use hammers and other objects to repel survivors trying to cling to the pirate vessels.

"The level of violence, the viciousness of attacks has gone up... even though the number of attacks has gone down," said a Western aid official, who demanded anonymity.

Thai government officials would not officially comment, but some dismissed the accounts by survivors as fabrications designed to win sympathy and quicker resettlement in the West. They also dismissed suggestions that government policy had encouraged the violence.

Figures compiled by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees show at least 28 people killed and 590 missing and presumed dead in 1988 and the first three months of this year.

In addition, the UNHCR said Friday that seven pirates armed with shotguns and hammers killed three crew members and set fire to a boat carrying about 130 Vietnamese refugees off the Malaysian coast April 16. There was only one known survivor.

Two attacks in March left more than 100 people missing, according to survivors' accounts collected by the UNHCR.

On March 19, three boats manned by about 15 pirates robbed a vessel with 46 Vietnamese aboard. They abducted 10 women, then rammed the Vietnamese boat until it capsized. A passing vessel rescued the only known survivor.

On March 25, pirates abduc-



A Vietnamese refugee rests aboard a Hong Kong patrol boat

ted up to 30 women and children after looting a boat with 58 Vietnamese passengers. Armed with knives and metal objects, the pirates beat the other passengers and threw them overboard. A teen-age boy and an old man who floated to an oil rig were the only known survivors.

Pirates have attacked the Vietnamese in the Gulf of Thailand and the adjoining South China Sea since they began fleeing the communist takeover in April 1975.

In recent years, these attacks had been steadily decreasing with the strengthening of a Thai anti-piracy programme co-ordinated by the UNHCR and funded by Western nations, mostly the United States.

According to UNHCR figures, pirates attacked 17 per cent of the Vietnamese boats that landed on Asian shores in 1985. The attacks left 455 people dead or missing.

The proportion and violence of attacks fell the next two years.

In 1987, pirates attacked eight per cent of the boats, 95 people were reported dead or missing.

The proportion of attacks fell to seven per cent in 1988, but the violence increased dramatically. In the 100 boats attacked, 38 people were reported killed and 478 missing, including 71 women who were abducted and not recovered.

In the first three months of this year, at least 242 people were missing from attacks and up to 85 women were reported raped.

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A record

Ninety-year old Mario Borradori managed his first parachute jump from 4000 metres and set a new record for the Guinness Book of Records yesterday. He said, "It was a nice experience" and would do it again. Picture left shows recordholder with instructor before jump and picture right during the jump.

Former goddess Sunina down to earth

Retired at age 13, she wants to be doctor

KATHMANDU, May 8, (Reuters): Sunina Shakya is catching up on the schooling she missed when she was a goddess.

Once she lived in an elaborately carved wooden house in Nepal's royal palace compound. Now the shy and slender 20-year-old lives with her family in a fourth floor tenement flat in Kathmandu.

Retired by tradition at age 13, Sunina—who had to skip school when she was a child goddess—is finishing high school and wants to be a doctor.

She first began to understand she was special at around the age of six, Sunina told a Reuters correspondent during a recent visit to Nepal.

She had been chosen over several other candidates at the age of four as the new "Kumar

Bahal," virgin goddess and spiritual consort to the king of Nepal.

According to legend, the kings once consulted with the divine kumari on matters of statecraft, but one day about 200 years ago a king lusted after her during a game of dice.

The affronted goddess refused to be seen again in this world but promised to return reincarnated as the daughter of someone in the Sakya clan of goldsmiths and silversmiths.

Sunina had met the qualifications for a reincarnated kumari—her horoscope was in harmony with that of Nepal's King Birendra, she came from the Sakya clan, had perfect teeth and had never shed blood nor broken bones.

Finally, she passed the last test. The child candidates were all put in a darkened room and subjected to fearsome noises. Sunina said she does not remember much about the ordeal but she apparently was the calmest child—which meant she was the reincarnated goddess.

She was never allowed to leave her rooms on the third floor of the Kumari House, with magnificent carvings of gods on the walls and painted lion statues at the entrance, except on certain festivals.

"I was very happy in the Kumari House," she said. "I don't know why. Maybe because it was the gods' place."

Young men carried her in a sumptuously decorated palanquin through the streets of Kathmandu on festival days. Children

were allowed to come up and play with her. Men came to worship, sometimes leaving gifts or money.

The king, regarded by some Nepalese Hindus as an incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu, pays homage to the living goddess during Indrajastra, one of Nepal's most spectacular religious festivals.

Sunina recalls nervously anointing him on that day with a mixture of powders, flower petals and rice that Nepal's Hindus rub onto the forehead to symbolise the divine presence.

At the age of 13 and the onset of puberty Sunina retired as child goddess, as her predecessors had since the mid-18th century when the tradition of reincarnated virgin goddesses began.

INTERNATIONAL/MIDEAST

Baker will seek help on Mideast

First visit to Soviet Union

WASHINGTON, May 8, (AP): On his first Soviet trip, US Secretary of State James Baker will ask for co-operation in the Middle East, Central America and other trouble spots— and steer clear of preparations for a superpower summit meeting until the results are in.

Despite several steps by Mikhail Gorbachev to lower tensions, Baker started out today on his first visit to Moscow sceptical that the Soviet leader's actions are in line with Gorbachev's "new thinking."

Baker has publicly questioned, for instance, whether reductions in troops and defence spending announced by Gorbachev have done much to offset Warsaw Pact edges in some military categories in Europe.

Two of Baker's closest aides, briefing reporters before his takeoff for Finland, said he would discuss a summit meeting with Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze only if they raised the subject.

1965 incident

H-bomb lost

NEW YORK, May 8, (Agencies): A hydrogen bomb with the potential blasting power of a million tonnes of TNT was lost 24 years ago off a US aircraft carrier 200 miles (320 km) from Okinawa, according to Newsweek magazine in a report released yesterday.

The 1965 incident, which also cost the life of a pilot and an A-4E Skyhawk strike aircraft, was covered up by the US Navy, according to documents gathered under US freedom of information laws for the Institute of Policy Studies in Washington, the magazine said.

The aircraft carrying the bomb rolled off the aircraft carrier Ticonderoga, headed to the Japanese port of Yokosuka from Vietnam and sank in 16,200 feet (5,000 metres) of water, the report said.

"For years, the US Navy refused to admit the Ticonderoga incident had even taken place," Newsweek said. "In a 1981 summary of accidents involving nuclear weapons, the Pentagon listed the incident but claimed it occurred 500 miles (800 km) from land." "All other details were classified as top secret."

Researchers for the institute placed the incident 70 miles (115 km) east of the nearest Japanese island and 200 miles (320 km) from the more heavily populated Okinawa, Newsweek said.

Panic spread among residents of the Japanese Okinawa island following the Newsweek magazine report.

Following the spread of the news, Japan's Council for Anti-Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs called on the military authorities to carry out investigations immediately, saying the bomb could have caused radiation pollution or already had.

US ties troops to N-weapons

West deeply divided

WASHINGTON, May 8, (Reuters): Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, entering a stormy debate that divides NATO allies, says he could not see a commitment of US troops to protect Europe unless they were backed by short-range nuclear weapons.

With three weeks remaining before a NATO summit meeting in Brussels, the Western alliance is deeply divided over a Soviet proposal to negotiate cuts in missiles with a range of up to 300 miles (500 km).

President George Bush refuses to accept the Soviet proposal for immediate talks on reducing short-range nuclear weapons in Europe—insisting, instead, that the size of conventional forces be reduced before negotiations begin on nuclear arms.

"I would argue strenuously that we do not foresee a set of circumstances in which you would have US troops deployed in Western Europe, where you would not also have as a significant component of deterrence nuclear weapons," Cheney said yesterday. "That's a fact of life."

"We clearly are pursuing now in the arms control arena reduction in conventional superiority that the Soviets possess," he said in a US television interview.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who wants immediate talks on reducing nuclear forces, has been pressing for immediate East-West talks on reducing the number of missiles with a range of up to 300 miles (500 km).

Washington and Britain fear such talks could lead

prematurely to the elimination of nuclear arms in Europe—the so-called "third zero" option. They claim Western Europe would then be easy prey to superior Soviet conventional forces.

"We should not be now involved in the business of trying to embark on negotiations that could result in a third zero," Cheney said.

Congressman Les Aspin, powerful chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, warned a prolonged debate could generate calls in Congress for withdrawing US troops from Europe.

"If there is a sentiment to go to a third zero, elimination of all nuclear weapons, I think the issue of no-nukes no-troops starts to get into the forefront," he said on the same programme.

"It is a danger," Aspin said. "It's not this year, but I could see it down the line."

Cheney argued that "short-range nuclear weapons are a key element in our strategy in Western Europe, and for us now to enter into negotiations that could result in a third zero would be a very serious mistake and undermine the basic strategy of the alliance."

Paul Nitze, the senior US arms control negotiator for former President Reagan, also said on the programme that the United States should "be cautious but be imaginative."

Nitze said the US demands for a modernisation of the Lance missile while refusing to enter the talks on the short-range weapons puts undue pressure on Bonn.

"If there are reasons to have such a summit, then we would certainly be pleased to have one," said one aide, speaking on condition of anonymity.

But prospects for a meeting between President George Bush and Gorbachev depend on progress in several areas, the US officials said.

They said Baker wants Soviet co-operation in Central America and the Middle East, in combating terrorism and in slowing the proliferation of ballistic missiles. The officials left unclear how much had to be accomplished before Bush would consent to a superpower summit.

"The President's past position is that one should not meet just for the sake of meeting, but rather one should have particular topics that are ripe for heads of government to engage in," a Baker aide said.

Gorbachev took exactly that position on summitry after rising to power in 1985. But he then went on to hold five meetings with former President Ronald Reagan, concluding a treaty to abolish medium-range nuclear missiles and easing tensions in Afghanistan and on a number of other fronts.

But the Bush administration says that is not enough.

In Central America, the administration wants the Soviets to sharply reduce military aid to Nicaragua. It amounted to \$500 million last year. US-supported rebels are trying to overthrow the Marxist government.

In the Middle East, the administration wants the Soviets to muffle their calls for an international peace conference and join Bush in pushing for direct negotiations between Israel and Palestinians.

Also, Baker would like the Soviets to stop providing Syria with missiles that add to Israel's military concerns.

"I think that that's a very potentially important topic that the United States has not engaged the Soviet Union in depth on in the past," an official said.

Baker, who has never been on Soviet soil either in private or government life, is stopping first in Helsinki to catch his breath before going on to Moscow on Wednesday morning. He also will meet with Finnish leaders whose country is Western in outlook and has a neutral foreign policy.

Shevardnadze will raise the Cyprus problems when he meets Baker in Moscow.

Shevardnadze dismisses Cheney remark

NEW YORK, May 8, (AP): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze called "incompetent and not serious" remarks by US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney about perestroika that also were dismissed by President George Bush, a magazine reported yesterday.

Cheney said during a television interview on April 29 that Soviet President Mikhail G. Gorbachev "would ultimately fail" in his attempt to restructure the Soviet economy and is "likely to be replaced by somebody who will be far more hostile" to the West.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater last Monday said Cheney's comments were "personal observations" and did not reflect the views of the Bush administration.

In an interview in the May 15 edition of Time magazine, Shevardnadze said, Shevardnadze "that particular statement is incompetent and not serious. I think President Bush understands the situation quite well when he says perestroika is an irreversible process."

In the interview, Shevardnadze also was asked whether he could envision any scenario in which Soviet troops would intervene militarily in a Warsaw Pact country.

Life is dismal for survivors of tornado

130,000 left homeless in Bangladesh

MANIKGANJ, Bangladesh, May 8, (AP): Mohammad Ahsanullah sold a cow to get money to rebuild a house lost in last week's killer tornado, but many of the storm's other survivors do not have such resources.

"I shall never get a house again," said Noorjahan Begum, who had moved into a new two-room house only two days before the tornado hit the Manikganj area, killing at least 1,100 people.

The mud-and-straw house was given to her by a local voluntary organisation which works for the poor.

"Where shall I get the money,"

asked Noorjahan, a 35-year-old widow who lived with her three children in Nirala, a small village near Manikganj.

Like many of the 130,000 people left homeless by the April 26 tornado, Noorjahan and her children are living in the open and surviving on government-supplied food.

The twister tore through a cluster of 40 villages at 160 kms (100 miles) an hour, destroying at least 30,000 houses and injuring about 12,000 people.

Some of the most seriously hurt now suffer from gangrene. Doctors estimate at least 500 people will have to have arms or

legs amputated because of gangrene.

Ahsanullah, 45, who is well-off by local standards, said he sold one of his two cows for 4,600 takas (\$144) to rebuild his tin-roofed, wooden house in Tili village.

The government plans to build 2,400 houses and the non-government voluntary organisations have promised to construct 4,000 more.

"We are certain that more than 1,100 people perished in the tornado," said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said the 400 people listed as

missing are now reported to be dead. The missing or dead included 200 fishermen who were caught in their boats when the tornado hit about 40 kms (25 miles) northwest of Dhaka.

Local news reports put the death toll at 1,100, but the government's official toll was from 700 to 800.

The storm also left lingering health problems, because water facilities were destroyed and people have been drinking polluted water.

Manikganj doctors, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they had treated at least 500 people

for diarrhoea in the last five days. Two of those people have died, the doctors said.

Bangladesh, home of 110 million people, is plagued by a cycle of natural disasters that includes floods, drought, cyclones and tornadoes. The low-lying nation, most of it barely above sea level, is one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in the world, with an average annual income of \$160.

Last summer, floods killed 1,400 people and left 2.5 million homeless. A cyclone in November claimed 1,100 lives.



Amadea Isaba sits in the courtyard of the Mother of Mercy Home with a pot of wild greens and a week-old cow's foot she collected from a rubbish pit from which she will make soup to supplement survival rations of maize from the UN relief operation. (Reuters wirephoto)

Relief arrives in southern Sudan

Survival struggle goes on

TORIT, Sudan, May 8, (Reuters): Oblivious to south Sudan's blistering sun, 11-year-old Mario Severino patiently scoops up maize grains dropping from torn sacks of relief aid.

His eyes hungrily follow each bag as it joins hundreds of others stockpiled in this rebel-held town, 100 km (60 miles) north of the Uganda-Sudan border.

Bags of maize started arriving by truck and aircraft over a week ago, but the food barely dents the effects of hunger and war.

Famished townspeople who fled to nearby mountains during heavy fighting in February were trickling back into Torit during a recent visit by a Reuters team, the second by journalists since Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels seized the war-battered town two months ago.

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 against what it considers to be domination of the mainly Christian south by the Muslim north.

Torit is one of a dozen garrison towns captured by the SPLA since February.

Tens of thousands of people, mainly in southern Sudan, have died in the war that has sent more than 500,000 others fleeing to Ethiopia and Uganda as refugees.

Torit's returning residents found only the barest of survival rations as relief workers conserved limited food supplies.

Operation Lifeline Sudan

NAIROBI, May 8, (Reuters): The United Nations says it has moved enough food aid to war-torn southern Sudan to prevent mass deaths of thousands of people who face starvation there because farming has been disrupted by the fighting.

James Grant, head of the UN's Operation Lifeline Sudan, told a news conference in Nairobi last night that 45,000 tonnes of food had been rushed to southern Sudan since March.

Another 45,000 tonnes was expected to be moved in between now and the end of June, which would be 30,000 tonnes short of the original estimate set for the region when the operation was launched in April.

"We can say that the operation is well launched but it is substantially behind schedule ... but we appear to be in a position to avoid any massive deaths," Grant said.

Ragged bands of hungry children scavenged outside Torit's grain warehouse and weary old people waited stoically at the Catholic-run Mother of Mercy Home for maize.

"There's absolutely nothing. They're just filling their bellies (with relief maize)," said Ben Martinson, co-ordinator of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Torit.

Maize is keeping Mario Severino alive but a belly protruding over ragged shorts is clear evidence of the lack of

protein-rich food. Only a few scrawny cattle survived a nine-month siege of Torit by the SPLA last year.

Townspeople could no longer farm in the fertile countryside and supply routes from Juba, the regional capital, were cut off.

Torit's main street is deserted except for chanting rebel recruits who march past gutted and abandoned shops, and the empty open-air market.

In residential areas which have not been occupied by soldiers, women pick wild mangoes and

greens to supplement the maize survival rations.

The WFP is arranging for supplies of beans, salt, sugar and milk powder. Martinson said. Nearby, groups of malnourished workers struggled to drag 90-kg (200-pound) sacks off trucks flying the blue-and-white UN flag.

Maize has been the first priority of the UN's operation lifeline, which hopes to move 100,000 tonnes of food into southern Sudan before the rainy season begins this month.

Election battle

Rajiv to unveil a plan for villages

NEW DELHI, May 8, (Reuters): Power to the people is the election battle cry of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as he prepares to unveil an ambitious plan to devolve political authority to India's villages.

Rajiv must first overcome resistance from opposition leaders, who denounced the scheme as part of his strategy to win general elections due by the end of the year.

Under the plan, Rajiv's Congress (I) Party administration in New Delhi will closely monitor the funds it allocates to state governments for village development.

In the past, opposition-led states used a large part of funds in urban areas to further the interests of the ruling party. Elections to the "panchayats" or councils were not held in most of India's half-a-million villages, a spokesman for Rajiv's government said.

"Now panchayat polls will be made compulsory by amending the constitution in the current session of Parliament," he said.

Rajiv told heads of panchayats and members of the local assembly of "Bangalore" last week: "Amendments of historic importance would be made in the constitution to bring power to the people at the grassroots level."

His audience welcomed the news, saying it would allow them to get the full benefit of financial aid from the centre without losing a portion of it to the state government through corruption and political interference.

The panchayat was traditionally a body of elders of a village who decided local disputes, but had little control over the development of their areas.

"The village is still the heart of India and the plan is a bold attempt by the prime minister to appeal directly to the people for their support in the elections," said a senior Congress leader.

For Rajiv, struggling to counter allegations of corruption and inefficiency levelled against his government by the opposition, it could also mean a last ditch bid to build himself up as a populist leader concerned for the poor.

Rajiv Kohari, of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, said the move would undercut governments in the six opposition-ruled states by making panchayats financially dependent on New Delhi.

"It is also an eyewash and an election gimmick," Kohari added.

The vice-president of the opposition Janata Dal Party, Ramakrishna Hegde, described the plan as Rajiv's dangerous idea of ruling the villages from New Delhi.

Militants call Kashmir strike


SRINAGAR, India, May 8, (Reuters): Kashmiri militants seeking secession from India have called a four-day strike from May 11 and formed suicide squads to combat police action against it.

The move is expected to result in renewed violence after a suspension of anti-government protests for the Muslim Ramadan fast.

The month-long fast finished on Saturday in Kashmir, the only state with a Muslim majority in predominantly Hindu India.

Cassette tapes sent to reporters in Srinagar, the summer capital, said suicide squads had been set up to combat what they called "the police onslaught" expected against the strike.

During anti-government riots in late March and early April, at least six people were killed, according to government figures. Local residents said the total could be as high as 30.



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White House
spokesman
Marlin Fitzwater
last Monday said
Cheney's comments
were "personal observations"
and did not reflect
the views of the
Bush administration.

In an interview in the May 15 edition of Time magazine, Shevardnadze said, Shevardnadze "that particular statement is incompetent and not serious. I think President Bush understands the situation quite well when he says perestroika is an irreversible process."

In the interview, Shevardnadze also was asked whether he could envision any scenario in which Soviet troops would intervene militarily in a Warsaw Pact country.

Hamilton 'sceptical about Bush'

Reagan's role in Iran-Contra affair unclear

WASHINGTON, May 8, (UPI): Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., chairman of a Special Committee that investigated the Iran-Contra affair, said yesterday he is still "sceptical" about President Bush's assertion that he never helped the Reagan administration illegally supply rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government.

In an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press," Hamilton insisted that his committee never got the full story in its investigation into the secret White House plan to sell arms to Iran and divert profits from those sales to the Nicaraguan Contras despite a congressional ban on aiding the rebels.

"With all my involvement, I still don't know exactly what the role of President Reagan was, exactly what the role of then Vice-President Bush was in all of these events," Hamilton said.

Hamilton's comments came in the wake of the conviction Thursday of former White House aide Oliver North on three out of 12 counts stemming from his role in the Iran-Contra affair.

As a result of the trial, a key document came to light that showed Bush met in February 1985 with then Honduran President Roberto Suazo. At the time, the document showed, Bush promised the government of Honduras that the United States would increase its foreign aid in exchange for help for the Contras.

Although Bush told reporters "there was no quid pro quo" involved, Hamilton expressed his doubts.

"I'm sceptical," Hamilton said. "That's the whole story of Iran-Contra, I think."

"I am sceptical in part because of the documents," he said.



Bush
"These documents show that we contacted Honduras, we increased aid to Honduras and Honduras in return aided the

Contras. "Those documents are about as clear a statement of quid pro quo as you'll ever see in a government document," he said. "Those documents have implications. They are contrary to what the President says. We ought to pursue them."

Hamilton did not, however, say that Congress would reopen an investigation into Bush's role but left open the possibility that his committee could be reactivated.

"I think I have and other members of Congress have a responsibility to pursue these matters," he said.

But, in an interview with CBS's "Face the Nation," Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., defended Bush and called the "resurrection of the whole issue simply because (of) some documents... very unfortunate."

Tehran executes hundreds amid political turmoil

NICOSIA, May 8. (AP): Iranian authorities have executed hundreds of people since August amid the political turmoil that has followed the Iran-Iraq war, and sources outside the country say a new wave of arrests is under way.

Iranian authorities have announced that "scores of counter-revolutionaries" and more than 500 drug offenders have been put to death since August.

But human rights groups and opposition sources outside Iran assert that the real number of executions could range from 1,000 to more than 12,000, and that many of the purported drug offenders executed in fact may be political opponents to the government.

The executions are the most numerous in Iran since 1980-81, when Ayatollah Khomeini's loyalists turned on leftist and

secular militants who helped them topple Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

There is speculation that the executions will continue, against a growing official outcry against "liberals" inside the country and signs of a power struggle within the Tehran hierarchy.

"The liberals are in conflict with the revolution," Tehran's

radical Jomhuri Islami daily declared last week. "Why have they been left...to infiltrate every place they want to carry out wicked acts?...The snakes are in their holes and waiting to release their poison."

In the Tehran political manoeuvring, hardliners led by Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi appear now to hold the upper hand. Several leading figures associated with more

moderate policies have already become casualties of the fundamentalist resurgence decreed by Khomeini in February.

Most prominent among them has been Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, who lost his status as the chosen successor to Khomeini as Iran's spiritual leader. Montazeri had called for a halt to executions and wider freedoms, and openly criticised

the shortcomings of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Some of the "counter-revolutionaries" that Tehran has acknowledged were executed were Montazeri's supporters.

Many were middle-ranking clerics, including Hojatoleslam Omid Najafabadi, a former revolutionary judge. They were described by Intelligence Minister Mohammad Rey-Shahri as

"pseudo-clergymen...involved in various political, moral and corrupt offences."

The most powerful opposition movement to Khomeini outside Iran, the Iraqi-based Mujaheden-e-Khalq, claim that more than 12,000 political prisoners have been slain by the state in the last six months. It has listed by name 1,600 of the alleged victims, and says hundreds of more people are being arrested now.



Soldier's grave

An Israeli soldier removes a pickaxe and a hoe as he and another soldier pass the grave of Avi Sassportas, an Israeli paratrooper killed while hitch-hiking. (Reuters wirephoto)

Inside the intifada

Fax and olive branch

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8. (Reuters): "People think of the intifada as the 'revolution of the stones'," says one of its underground leaders.

"It is also the revolution of the fax and the olive branch."

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat never goes anywhere without his facsimile transmitter-receiver, associates say, and the machines have become key tools of the Palestinian revolt.

They enable PLO leaders in exile and clandestine organisers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to speak with one voice to street activists engaged in a daily struggle against Israeli rule.

Leaflets which carry calls and other directives are drafted by local underground leaders, Palestinian sources say.

But before they are issued they are faxed via Paris to Tunis, edited by the PLO, then sent back to Jerusalem for distribution in the occupied territories.

Arafat coined the phrase "the gun and the olive branch" in a 1975 UN speech to describe the Palestinian struggle. The uprising leadership has forewarned the use of guns.

"Our strengths are our anonymity, our link with the PLO and the fact that the uprising has a peace message...our readiness to build a Palestinian state alongside Israel, not to destroy Israel," said one of the uprising leaders, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Recent Israeli court indictments against seven alleged activists shed new light on the unified national leadership of the uprising, which issues the PLO-backed directives.

They also named several accused leaders of the 17-month revolt, including philosophy professor Sari Nusseibeh and journalist Saman Khoury and Radwan Abu Ayash.

It was the first time since the beginning of the uprising that Israel's security services claimed to have proof that East Jerusalem intellectuals were directly guiding the intifada, writing leaflets and bringing in money.

Khouri is charged with working for an illegal organisation. Nusseibeh and Abu Ayash, chairman of the Arab Journalists Association, have not been indicted. All deny the accusations.

Court documents show the leadership comprises a delegate from each of the four main factions — Arafat's Fatah, the Syrian-based Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP and DFLP) and the Palestine Communist Party.

The court documents say the PLO channelled millions of dollars to finance the uprising, some of it allegedly through Nusseibeh, 40, described as a senior Fatah activist.

Israel's dilemma

Restraining influence

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8. (Reuters): Israel faces tough choices in dealing with the underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

According to court documents, Shin Bet secret police have unmasked the men running the 17-month revolt.

But East Jerusalem intellectuals Sari Nusseibeh and Radwan Abu Ayash, named in charges against other activists as senior leaders of the mainstream Fatah movement, have not been arrested.

On the contrary, Israel has allowed Nusseibeh, Abu Ayash, Faisal Al Hussein and other leading figures to travel abroad, turning a blind eye to their contacts with the PLO.

And local Palestinian leaders have nevertheless refused to deal with Shamir, saying Israel must address itself to the PLO if it wants to negotiate an end to the uprising.

Security sources say Shin Bet cracked the organisation of the PLO-backed Unified National leadership three months ago but Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin decided not to arrest Nusseibeh and Abu Ayash.

Shamir did not want to poison the atmosphere for his April trip to Washington, carrying proposals for elections in the occupied territories to choose Palestinians to negotiate interim self-rule with Israel.

"Nusseibeh and Abu Ayash are precisely the kind of white-collar leaders he needs if he wants to reach a political solution," an Israeli security source said.

Palestinians say even if Israel jailed the entire leadership it would disrupt but not stop the rebellion, deeply rooted among the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupation zone.

Without the restraining guidance of moderate East Jerusalem intellectuals, things would turn more violent and anarchic.

Arresting East Jerusalem intellectuals would also be likely to incur the wrath of the United States, European countries and human rights organisations, as well as the Israeli left.

Palestinians cite as an example the deportation last year of American-Palestinian civil disobedience advocate Mubarak Awad, one of the early leaders of the uprising.

Nicknamed "The Palestinian Gandhi" by his supporters, Awad's removal did nothing to quell the uprising.

The Bir Zeit University philosophy professor is the son of a former Jordanian defence minister.

A key captured document alleged in the indictment to have been drafted by Khoury reports on the dispersal of \$1.5 million.

The indictments say Khoury was the DFLP representative in the unified leadership at the end of 1988. Hassan Abed Rabbo is listed as the Fatah representative.

Adnan Shalalda was named as the PFLP delegate and Taher Shaloudi as the communist. Shaloudi is in detention but has not been indicted, unlike the other three. Palestinian sources said he is believed to have testified against the others because of a dispute over money and may be used as a witness at his trial.

According to the Khoury document, the Communist Party received only \$20,000 of the \$1.5 million, while the PFLP got \$600,000, Fatah \$500,000 and the DFLP \$380,000.

The sums puzzled Israeli security officials because they do not reflect the relative strengths of the groups in the territories,

Co-operation

Khamenei to focus on arms in China

DUBAI, May 8. (Reuters): Iranian President Ali Khamenei will be hoping to wrap up several arms deals when he visits China and North Korea this week, Iranian sources said.

Khamenei will also take up a Chinese invitation to discuss further military co-operation, they said.

Western diplomats expect him to confirm friendly ties with China at a time when Tehran's switch to hardline, Islamic-inspired policies have spurred Western hostility.

China is also Iran's main hope of keeping its weapons and communications technology up to a standard that does not fall too far behind that of former war foe Iraq, they said.

Western military analysts have said North Korea has been an important conduit for some Chinese arms to Iran.

Iranian sources said there were many N. Korean as well as Chinese advisers working in Iran.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Khamenei left for Beijing today, Iranian sources said he would stay in China for six days and then go to Pyongyang for four days.

The sources did not say what deals he would be talking about but Iran has confirmed several large purchases of missiles and tanks over communications and satellite technology.

Iran is very short of cash and has made many arms purchases through barter trade, mostly for oil, Western diplomats said.

Khamenei will also want to build on a 1987 pact with China which said bilateral trade should rise to \$500 million a year and China would help construct a dam on the Kharke river, in Khuzistan, the Iranian sources said.

Western military analysts said a lot of the arms trade almost certainly was not included in this figure.

Last week, China's Ambassador to Tehran, Wang Benzuo, said he had discussed Iranian concerns about a sale of Chinese medium-range CSS2 missiles to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia and China have opened trade offices in each other's country, breaking Riyadh's long-term policy of keeping communist China at arms length.

Western diplomats said Iran probably feared that Chinese arms to the Saudis could end up in Iraq in the event of another war with Baghdad.

But it was unlikely to cause major problems, they said.

Wang Benzuo said China was happy to talk further about military co-operation, adding that Khamenei's visit was an important event in relations between the two countries.

Iranian jets, destroyers and frogmen staged mock attacks on targets in the Gulf today, IRNA said.

It said the armed forces, which staged hundreds of real attacks on shipping before an August Gulf war ceasefire, were holding a five-day exercise.

Frogmen attacked imaginary targets in the Strait of Hormuz and bombing raids on land and troop landings would follow in the "Zulfagar 4" exercise, IRNA quoted an operational commander as saying.

Frigates, destroyers, missile boats and logistical vessels teamed up with frogmen, a brigade of marines, mine sweeping helicopters, jets, commandos and paratroopers, said IRNA.

Iran urged the "International Committee of the Red Cross to help release more than 700 Iranians it claims were captured by Iraq after the truce in the Gulf war, IRNA reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati made the request during a meeting Saturday with an ICRC official. IRNA only identified the official as the ICRC's regional representative.

Khamenei opened the Tehran international book fair yesterday with an attack on the West for supporting Salman Rushdie's book *The Satanic Verses*.

Iran stresses support for Afghan rebels

Soviets rap Pakistan

MOSCOW, May 8. (Reuters): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in a meeting with his Zimbabwe counterpart, charged that mounting interference from Pakistan has aggravated the situation in Afghanistan, Tass news agency said today.

Shevardnadze discussed the Afghan war yesterday with Zimbabwe Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira, Tass said.

Shamuyarira flew to Moscow after holding talks in Islamabad as a representative of the Non-Aligned Movement.

He told Shevardnadze that the non-aligned countries favoured a political solution to the Afghan problem and would discuss it at the coming meeting of the movement's co-ordination bureau in Harare, Tass said.

Shamuyarira arrived in Moscow yesterday for a short working visit, the first by a senior Zimbabwe official since it was announced in January that

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had been invited to visit Harare by President Robert Mugabe.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei told Afghan rebels that Tehran firmly supported them and felt its security was linked to Afghanistan's, Iran's IRNA news agency said today.

"Ideologically, it is our duty to help oppressed Muslims who are under pressure from every side," Khamenei told leaders of Afghan Muslim rebels fighting the pro-Soviet Kabul government.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Khamenei yesterday gave the leaders of the eight-party rebel coalition proposals on how bickering rebel factions might achieve unity. IRNA gave no details.

Noting that Iran and Afghanistan share a long border stretching 500 miles (800 km), he said Iran's national security was linked to Afghanistan's.

"We, under no circumstances, could remain indifferent towards the future government in Afghanistan," he said.

Mauritania blames Senegal

Riot compensation demanded

DAKAR, May 8. (Reuters): Mauritania has blamed Senegal for a flare-up of ethnic rioting which killed several hundred people and demanded compensation for Mauritanian property seized or destroyed in Senegal.

"The government and the people of Mauritania did not bear the slightest responsibility in the tragic events. On the contrary, we have always acted with the aim of avoiding clashes and loss of innocent lives," President Mohamed Maouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya said in a speech yesterday.

Taya's remarks, carried on Nouakchott radio monitored in the Senegalese capital Dakar, were Mauritania's first official comments since communal riots

rocked Mauritania and neighbouring Senegal at the end of last month.

Hundreds died and thousands were made homeless in the week-long violence in the two West African countries, according to hospital sources and eyewitness accounts.

The riots, sparked by a minor border incident over grazing rights on April 9, began with the looting in Senegal of Mauritanian shops two weeks later and spread quickly to both countries.

Taya said the unrest stemmed from the harassment last year of Mauritanian herders in Senegal and the subsequent brief closure of the border in January 1989 by the Dakar government.

The president accused Senegalese media of inflaming anti-Mauritanian feelings among the eight million Senegalese.

Taya said Senegal should return the money seized from departing Mauritanians and offer compensation for property abandoned or destroyed during the flare-up.

He also warned that anyone in Mauritania attempting to breach the law and public order "would be regarded as a traitor and dealt with accordingly."

The strife ended last week when both governments called in the army and clamped a night curfew on Dakar and Nouakchott. An international airlift last week flew up to 70,000 people to safety from both countries.

Love for revolution

ABU DHABI, May 8. (Reuters): Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi said he renounced romance as a young man so he could concentrate on revolution.

"I did not have any love affair then. I imposed a strict regime on myself and kept away from anything that might interfere with the planned revolution," Khaddafi said in an interview with Abu Dhabi Television yesterday.

Khaddafi, who overthrew the monarchy in 1969 at the age of 27 and expelled US and British troops in Libya, is now a father of seven.

Palestinian goods

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8. (Reuters): A leading Israeli industrialist has asked that goods made in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip be marked so Israelis can decide if they wish to buy them, Israeli Radio said today.

Michael Strauss, head of the food division of Israel's Manufacturers Association, said it was ridiculous that while Palestinians boycotted Israeli products, Israelis had no way of telling whether they were buying Israeli or Palestinian goods, the radio said.

Rebels reject

ADDIS ABABA, May 8. (Reuters): Sudanese rebels today rejected the government's offer to set up a joint committee to enforce a ceasefire proposed last week.

Responding to the proposal, Nephil Deng, spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said the rebels would meet with the government only to implement a broader peace pact they reached last November with one of the parties in Sudan's governing coalition.

AI Khalifa visit

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, May 8. (KUNA): Bahrain's Crown Prince and acting Premier Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa arrived in Jeddah yesterday, evening on a visit to the Saudi kingdom, the official Saudi Press Agency, SPA, reported.

The agency, declining other details, said the Bahraini official was greeted at the airport by senior military and government officials.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Phones for chalets

THE Higher Planning Committee at the Ministry of Communications held a meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of the Minister Abdullah Al Sharhan to discuss issues listed on its agenda, the first and foremost of which is the provision of telephone service to chalets.

The committee discussed the proposed telephone line routes for the chalets, the existing shortages in the ministry's budget and measures so far taken to meet this shortage.

The committee also reviewed the subscriber telephone directory project and the steps taken by the supervisory committee towards the publication of the directory.

The committee decided that the proposed directory should cover the names of facsimile subscribers, and agreed on the way to advertise the ministry's additional services, applicants registration and proposed tariff.

The committee also discussed the various construction stages of the telecommunication tower scheduled for completion in 1991.

Insecticide expert

THE international expert on agricultural insecticides, and Assistant Undersecretary at the Lebanese Agricultural Ministry, Dr Fuad Saad visited Kuwait upon the invitation of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries.

Dr Saad will put forward the main feature lines for the establishment of a specialised central laboratory for analysing agricultural insecticides and their effect on foods in Kuwait.

Dr Saad pointed out that he has prepared a list for the technical staff and specialists required to fulfill the needs of all laboratory, scientific, technical and administrative sections. He also designed a draft project for the registration and importation of agricultural insecticides to Kuwait. The draft project includes a plan for the central laboratory that comprises of different sections.

Dr Saad gave a brief explanation on agricultural insecticide compounds and pointed out that such insecticides could be manufactured according to international standards.

He stressed that the purpose behind applying agricultural insecticides is to get rid of blights under a fully balanced and sensitive environment without affecting other beings.

Library training

THE controller of Kuwait libraries Ahmad Abdullah Al Ali has stressed the importance of training programmes in upgrading the existing performance level of librarians.

Speaking to a local newspaper, Ali said that the most frequent users of libraries were students and researchers who were looking to compile information on certain subjects as requested at universities or schools.

He said that the libraries had been detached from the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters in 1979 for purely organisational reasons and that there was still a shortage in the number of librarians and technical staff to run these libraries.

He said that the Libraries Department arranged for holding annual book fairs, which were guaranteed success and admiration by the public due to the organisation and consistent efforts exerted by the department staff.

Mijren denies blocking annual sales process

Electronic appliance companies abstain

THE Undersecretary at Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry Rashed Al Mijren was quoted as saying that the ministry was not blocking the sale process to be offered by merchants in the country.

Reductions

Mijren who was refuting claims raised by some merchants and local agents during a seminar organised by a local daily on the issue, said that the application of the law should not be understood as an obstacle for merchants who desire to offer reductions during the sale season.

He clarified that the 20% reduction to be given during the sale season was not imposed by the ministry, but it was stipulated in the relevant law, provided that the net profit should not exceed 10%.

Headed, however, the ministry has set no specific date for sale but it has debated the issue with local agents and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and accordingly the pertinent ministerial decision had been issued in 1987. He further added that the said decision had allowed merchants and local agents to arrange for sale twice a year.

Mijren disclosed that the ministry had

recorded several violations committed by the merchants during the sale season, clarifying that 28 violations were committed by the electrical and electronic appliances merchants during the previous sales seasons.

Meanwhile, the official has described the demands by both merchants and local agents for the cancelling of the law organising the sales process as unjustified, clarifying that the said law was for the interest of both the merchant and the consumer. He added that the ministry had previously held a meeting with a number of merchants and representatives from the

Chamber of Commerce and Industry and requested them to submit their remarks over the sales law, but nothing on this issue had been submitted by them so far. He expressed the ministry's readiness to receive their observations and debate any observation in this connection with merchants, the local agents and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

It has been learnt that the sale season this year will begin May 11th and would last up to May 31st with only 15 companies participating. Most of the electronic and electrical appliances companies will not participate in the sale season this year.



Accident on the motorway

A school bus with its number still intact rolled over on the Sixth Ring motorway yesterday. Cranes had to be called in to set it back on its wheels. No one was injured. Photo by Ahmed Al Burini.

Doctors to be insured

Check on authenticity of medical reports

OFFICIAL sources, quoted by a local daily, have said that an ad-hoc committee will be formed shortly for the purpose of studying all medical reports submitted to ministries, establishments, and government departments on the basis of which many employees were exempted from doing certain duties within their jobs.

The sources said that exemptions made in this way had come to form a formidable phenomenon, as the number of employees in various ministries and public establishments exempted from work on the grounds of these reports has reached a big proportion and is increasing. The sources described the phenomenon as "very dangerous."

Punishment

The sources added that several government ministries and agencies had complained to the Ministry of Public Health about employees seeking certain work exemptions through fake medical reports, requesting the reconsideration of all such reports so far issued.

The complaint also requested the punish-

ment of those who were instrumental in the generation of such reports, which would include doctors and employees.

A study on this issue was carried out by the Ministry of Health and covered most of those who were exempted on medical grounds from doing certain jobs or have been granted retirement rights. The sources added that the purpose of the study and the committee is to stop fake medical reports.

Doctors insurance

Meanwhile, the secretary general of the Kuwait Institute for medical specialisations, Dr Abdullah Al Refai welcomed any contribution or offers by the local insurance companies to cover doctors at the Ministry of Health with an insurance scheme. Al Refai said that two local insurance companies have presented offers to insure ministry doctors. He said that the ministry had already contacted a non-profit British establishment and asked it to cover doctors in Kuwait with an insurance scheme. He added that the ministry supplied the establishment which is not an insurance company, with necessary informa-

tion including number of cases filed against doctors, number of cases won against them in courts and others rejected in addition to number of doctors and other necessary information. He said that the ministry is awaiting a reply.

Refai said that the ministry would give priority to the local companies provided their offers be at least equal to the offers of the British non-profitable establishment. He added that no doubt, dealing with local companies is preferred by the ministry than dealing with foreign companies.

Refai said that medical insurance is part of the doctors' rights against the professions risks and dangers. He added that any doctor can face such dangers and may be legally sued on committing mistakes. He said that some patients file cases in courts against doctors, admitting that some of them were right but most were untrue and these are motivated by the desire to have compensation. Refai announced yesterday that Kuwait courts are looking into 16 different cases filed against doctors.

Soviet floating hospital to visit Gulf

THE director of the Soviet Optical Floating Hospital Vladimir Hawout arrives in Kuwait at the head of a medical delegation on May 11 to discuss arrangements with Public Health Ministry officials regarding the proposed visit by the floating hospital to Kuwaiti shores, registration of applicants seeking treatment for eye ailments and other medical and professional issues.

Sources close to the ministry say that the floating hospital staff of specialised doctors could perform as many as 100 operations per day, and that the floating hospital is currently anchored at a West German port.

Sources added that the floating hospital will leave West Germany in a few days' time and that its first voyage will be to the Black Sea and first station in the Gulf region will be the UAE during next December.

75 per cent of Kuwaiti youth suffer heart problems

WITHIN its activities for the academic year 1988/1989, the students and Trainees Affairs Bureau at the Business College organised a cultural seminar on Sport, Nutrition and Medicine.

The seminar was attended by Dr Mustafa Jawhar, Dr Shalabi Mohammed and Dr Mohammed Othman from the Basic Education Faculty, the head of Training Affairs, Dr Abdulaziz Al Ahmad and a number of teaching staff at the Business College and Basic Education Faculty.

Obesity

Jawhar talked about the obesity problem in Kuwait and related diseases. He said that about 75 per cent of Kuwaiti youth were suffering from heart diseases due to cholesterol in the

Advertising prospects brighter

THE advertising sector is picking up considerably and prospects of its growth look bright during the nineties in the Middle East in general and the Gulf in particular, according to a leading Bahrain-based advertising executive.

The advertising industry experienced its golden age in the region in the mid-seventies, particularly between 1975-80, during the economic boom in the Gulf. However, the start of the Gulf war followed by recession saw business slump dramatically causing difficult times in the region. Consequently advertising business suffered immensely. Now with the end of the war things are picking up again in the advertising world, explained Akram Milnos, president and chief executive of Fortune Promo7, in an interview with the Arab Times.

According to Milnos advertising business has increased by about 50 per cent in the Middle East and the Gulf since the turbulent days of a mid-eighties.

"There is definitely more confidence in the general business sector of the region. Advertising companies are now busy with long term planning strategy with the objective of operating for a long time. Only those companies who are able to provide clients with a comprehensive set of services backed by fully fledged marketing support with highly trained and qualified staff will survive in this field in the long run," said Milnos.

According to him the market has now become mature and highly demanding in the region. In the seventies it was a sellers market, while today it has become a buyers market, he added.

"Today clients expect much more in terms of services and quality. They have become highly selective in their needs," said Milnos.

Milnos stressed that although Bahrain is a small market in terms of advertising, the country could become a very important advertising centre in the Gulf in view of its excellent telecommunications system and infrastructure. He added that the island could play a major role with the region in view of its importance to develop human resources for this industry.

"We are committed to effectively train Bahrainis for the advertising market in future. The future of advertising in the country will depend on local skills," said Milnos.

According to Milnos Arab advertising agencies formed by international joint-ventures and conglomerates will greatly boost the market and stand a better chance of fulfilling clients' expectations and demands. He added however, that both local and international companies must be more equipped to meet the challenge of today than the mid-seventies.

"The region is becoming smaller with common denominators, more social and economic unity and closer communication. With an increasingly stronger market demand the advertising agencies here are being pushed towards this line of thinking," commented Milnos.

Treat students gently, urges educationist

THE Director of the Capital Educational Area Khaled Al Sulaiman has confirmed the importance of handling the cheating phenomenon spread among the students during the examinations wisely.

He called on teachers and controllers at the examinations halls to deal gently and quietly with students who cheat.

In an interview with a local daily following a meeting presided over by him which was attended by the principals of secondary schools in the Capital Area, the official called for preserving of the students' sentiments which were mostly susceptible to tension during the examination hours. He confirmed the importance of spreading awareness among the students prior to the examination process by clarifying the negative aspects of cheating in examinations and the penalties to be applied in case any student is caught red handed.

Likewise, the official confirmed the importance of handling weak standards among teachers by the school administration.

He disclosed that the unified examination schedules for this year had been approved and distributed and all education areas will get a public opinion poll on the subject after the exams.

Sulaiman said that he discussed in his meeting with the principals the estimated budgets of the secondary schools and the students density at each school.

SEASONAL TIMES

FLIGHTS TO INDIA

TO BOMBAY	FLT. NO	DAY	DEP.	ARR.	ACFT
	A1850	MON	2245	0510*	A310 D
	A1852	TUE	2245	0510*	A310 D
	A1854	WED	2245	0510*	A310 D
	A1856	THU	2245	0510*	A310 D
	A1858	FRI	2245	0510*	A310 D
	A1862	SUN	2245	0800*	A310 VIA DELHI

TO DELHI	FLT. NO	DAY	DEP.	ARR.	ACFT
	A1856	FRI	2245	0935*	A310
	A1862	SUN	2245	0500*	A310 D
	A1850/503	MON	2245	1145*	A310/L16
	A1854/807	WED	2245	1020*	A310/A310

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	A1858	FRI	0745	1535	A310
	A1850/850A	MON	2245	0915*	A310/A310
	A1852/802	TUE	2245	0900*	A310/AB
	A1856/156	THU	2245	0930*	A310/AB

TO GOA	FLT. NO	DAY	DEP.	ARR.	ACFT
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	A1855	WED	2000	2130	A310 D
	A1857	THU	2000	2130	A310 D
	A1859	FRI	0500	0830	A310 D
	A1865	SUN	2000	2130	A310 D

FROM DELHI	FLT. NO	DAY	DEP.	ARR.	ACFT
	A1162/651	MON	1120	2130	B747/A310
	A1158/655	THU	2115	0630*	B747/A310
	A1155/655	SUN	1105	2130	A310/A310

FROM TRIVANDRUM	FLT. NO	DAY	DEP.	ARR.	ACFT
	A1859	FRI	1850	2130	A310
	A1803/853	TUE	1200	2130	A310/A310
	A1815/855	WED	1100	2130	AB/A310
	A1745/865	SUN	1330	2130	AB/A310

FROM GOA	FLT. NO	DAY	DEP.	ARR.	ACFT
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Call for selective immigration policy

(Continued from Page 1)

The report in which the Higher Planning Council has approved Kuwait's long-term development strategy, attributed Kuwait's fast progress to the stability of its political system and the solidarity and support of the people to its rulers. It said that this helped in building a state with an important position at various Arab, Islamic and international levels.

Kuwait has completed the building of its infrastructure specially in legislation and organisations, which employ highly qualified personnel. Both are very important for economic and social development. The availability of huge oil reserves and resources in addition to the many industrial projects based on it, provide the flexibility factor in the financial requirements needed for any development plan.

One of the characteristic features of Kuwaiti society is that a large proportion of its population are youths and enjoy a high birth growth rates, thus spreading realistic and optimistic reasons for more contributions to the work-force from its citizens.

But the report warned that the present positive factors face what it described as "very dangerous" challenges. It said that studies show that these elements will take new dimensions in the future if no serious attempts are made to confront them. These, it added, form "the challenge" that necessitated the working out of a long-term development strategy for Kuwait.

The development strategy report said that the limited natural resources "other than oil and the small size of the Kuwaiti land area" is the third challenge facing the country. It said that natural mineral resources other than oil, are almost non-existent in Kuwait. Under-ground water resources and agricultural lands are also very limited. The small size of the Kuwaiti population besides the present quality and size of the national manpower, made it absolutely difficult for working out ambitious programmes for expanding the production bases and the recruitment of expatriate manpower, thus leading not only to increased production cost, but also to more imbalance in the demographic structure.

The plan stressed that development can be made by perfect exploitation of resources of the state and available capabilities in order to reach better social and economic situation.

The previous presentations showed that there is a defect in resources structure in Kuwait. The public reserves are reducing and reserves of the coming generations are slowly growing up.

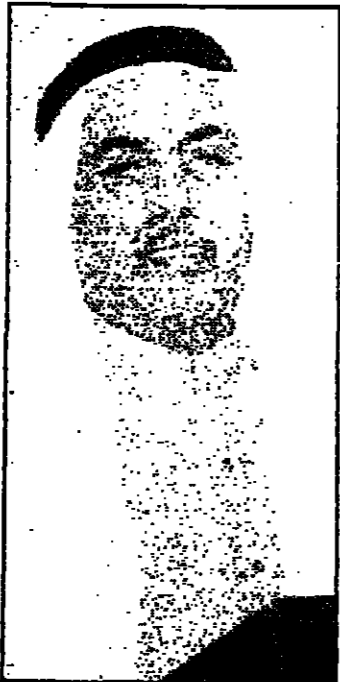
The resources that should be developed in Kuwait is the national manpower that represents the real wealth of society and basic factor in confronting the future challenges. The plan concentrates on the building of the Kuwaiti productive man which takes two dimensions:

● The human and civilisation dimension: The human and civilisation dimension in building of Kuwaitis, aims at interposing the religious values and deepening the feelings of loyalty to the country and society and to be proud of his heritage and social traditions as well as being able to benefit from the international scientific and technological developments.

It also aims at establishing the national identity for the coming generations, which is very important because the state will continue in its policy to import expatriate manpower due to population and economic situations. This imported manpower will have a cultural effect on the Kuwaiti society. Amendments can be made by the educational, informational and cultural efforts to preserve the culture and maintain the identity of society.

● The economic dimension: The treatment of economic and population situations in Kuwait shows importance of changing the economic structure. The changing of the economic structure aims at creating a structure depending on highly qualified and skilled manpower. This requires citizens to work in jobs requiring high skills and professions that require high wages and at the same time reduce dependence on unskilled expatriate manpower. This change requires the adoption of an economic policy that motivates making citizens more productive and enhancing their professional skills.

The building of the Kuwaiti productive workforce is the main issue in the long-term develop-



Fouad Mulla Hussein

ment strategy which means an increase of investment in manpower resources by developing their qualifications and knowledge that will lead to a reduction in the dependence on government spending. This will also help to develop the economic activity. This will require positive support to the development of the private sector and national manpower.

Due to the limited size and nature of its resources, Kuwait will need to have strong links with the international community. To achieve this, a suitable mode of integration among similar activities in the Gulf and co-ordination among the integrated activities with other Arab countries should be instituted.

The long-term strategy depends on the following principles:

1. Developing national manpower.
2. Development of the private sector.
3. Dependence on external investment.
4. Following planning policy.

● Developing national manpower: The strategy is based on education, administrative development and following a policy of selective immigration, to develop national manpower.

Education: Education is given special concern by the state which is evident in the increasing numbers of educational and training institutions and developments in the educational sector in general. Education has played a key role in increasing the numbers of educated people and development of society. The development of the Kuwaiti individual requires paying more attention to education at an early stage in order to imbibe basic values into coming generations.

The strategic trend to build the productive Kuwait should focus on the quality of educational output. This requires developing of the modern educational methods and an increase in skills. It also requires a system to encourage talented persons and support professional training centres that offer national manpower in the various fields.

● Policy of Selective Immigration: The achievement of aims of the suggested strategy should be supported by a policy of selective immigration to bring skilled expatriate manpower that helps in educating and training Kuwaitis in some activities in order to replace the expatriate manpower and also aims at reducing non-skilled manpower. This policy will help in controlling the defect and imbalance in the population.

● Development of Private Sector: The economic and social history of Kuwait shows a significant role was played by the private sector before the discovery of oil. The public sector dominated the different social and economic activities. After the increase of oil revenues the state began offering all services. This caused a retreat in the role of the private sector which turned to speculation fields that are not really productive and do not contribute to the national wealth.

The expansion of the state in possessing the public companies and establishments increased the administrative burden on the state.

Dependence on the international investments and expansion in the external investments: The small size of local market and scarcity of manpower resources as well as freedom of investment of capital require investment of these capitals outside Kuwait. This requires encouragement of investment projects which do not need skilled manpower out of the country. The strategy should link foreign investments should give priority to investment in projects that offer and meet needs of the state for strategic items and commodities.

The building of the Kuwaiti productive workforce is the main issue in the long-term develop-

Interior Ministry co-ordinates security tasks

DIRECTOR of the Interior Ministry operations department Lieut Col Mahmoud Mohammad Al Dosari said that the department's functions included emergency security tasks, co-ordination of telecommunications among the various top-level security organs, such as the army, national guards, ambulance and fire brigades.

There is a special emergency security committee headed by the Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem, which meets as required. The department sees to the furnishing of the meeting with all needed services, including maps and top-secret information as required to make the necessary security decision, Dosari said.

He added that the department receives

reports from the five governorates and various security organs on a 24-hour basis, which are referred to the relevant authorities. These reports include those filed by citizens or residents on problems and suspicions, Dosari added.

Training

The department will co-ordinate with relevant government departments regarding national celebrations and official functions and arrange for receptions of official guests and related security measures, VIP protection and supervision.

The department staff will regularly receive specialised training, both in and outside the country, in the performance of their duties in

order to optimise the level of their efficiency and train them in the use of modern technologies and latest security tactics, the official said.

He added that such training courses had been held in Sweden, Finland, Egypt, the US, Japan and South Korea, and that discussions covered tactics in war and peace times.

He pointed out that the department had intensified security measures during Eid, which is the season for much travelling and outing, whereby to guarantee protection for all against mishaps.

He said the department received reports on tele. 4818600, 4818601 and 4818000, and that the department staff are ready to receive incoming reports round the clock.

No price rise for NHA plots, says Shaheen

THERE is no truth in rumours that the government intends to increase the prices of plots to be distributed to citizens for housing projects, according to a senior official.

The State of Kuwait is taking a comprehensive view of all future issues pertaining to the housing needs of Kuwaitis. However state plans are being hindered due to the scarcity of land suitable for establishing housing projects, Dr Majeed Ibrahim Al Shaheen, the director-general at National Housing Authority (NHA) said in an interview with a local daily.

Involving the active support of the private sector in this area will positively contribute towards accelerating the development of the housing projects. Relevant studies to organise the involvement of the private sector in this field will soon be finalised.

However, Shaheen said that a balance will have to be drawn up to ensure that accelerating the implementing of these plans does not cause adverse effects in the

labour and raw material market. The input of the government in the private sector is essential to supervise these activities, the official added.

He went on to say that the NHA is not responsible for the delay in providing some services to the residential plots. The NHA's previous experience on housing projects implemented during the last five years faced no problems, Shaheen said.

On future plans, Shaheen said that the authority was preparing necessary plans to take into account the volume of demand as well as the area of suitable land. The first five-year-plan for 1975-1980 has been based on the major housing projects executed in remote areas in view of the abundance of government lands.

For the second five-year-plan for 1981-1985 there has been an increase in the number of houses allocated to the middle income group. A total of 30,151 housing units were built since the establishment of the NHA in 1986 and distributed to 21 residential

areas. With regard to the third five-year plan 1986-1991, this plan had been designed to face new developments in the Kuwaiti arena, the official was quoted as saying.

This plan aims at minimising the waiting period for obtaining government houses by the citizens. The plan also aims at constructing about 25,390 housing units including 61,710 houses, 1,088 flats and distributing about 7,592 plots. These fall within 12 housing projects to be established in different areas of the country.

Meanwhile, Shaheen acknowledged that despite all the efforts exerted for solving the housing problem, Kuwait still faces some problems which are mostly represented in the increasing demand for such services. This had resulted in the NHA to think of resorting to vertical expansion i.e. the flats system, but this idea had received no approval from the public.

In this context, the official

referred to Al Sawabir Housing Project which was enjoying a distinguished outlook in the country's five-years housing plan. Its importance rests on the fact that it is the first of its kind to be implemented in Kuwait and represents one of the alternatives for solving the housing problem and to realise the necessary balance in the population density. He described this project as an integrated one designed to respond to the requirements of all families.

Speaking of Al Subiyah Housing Project, Shaheen said that the idea of building Al Subiyah city was not a new one, referring that the pertinent layouts and designs of the proposed city were available since the beginning of 1980s and had been subject to special studies. The execution of the project requires some time relating to the implementation of some basic services including the construction of the necessary causeway linking the capital and this area and the construction of the necessary roads network.

Sheikh Isa to visit Cairo May 16

MANAMA, May 8, (KUNA): Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid has said that Bahrain's Amir Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa will visit Cairo May 16 and will meet with President Hosni Mubarak.

In an interview with Bahraini Daily "Al-Ayyam", Abdel Meguid added that the awaited encounter between the two Arab leaders "will open broader horizons for joint Arab action in the various fields between the two countries."

He wished for more Arab solidarity to snatch the Lebanese people out of their "bloody tragedies," noting that it will also reflect positively on the peace issue in the Gulf region.

On links among the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC), the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), Dr Abdel Meguid said that next ACC summit in Alexandria will look into developing and reinforcing co-operation among the three Arab congregations.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

BLESSED is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving us wordy evidence of the fact—George Eliot, English Novelist (1819-1880).

OPINION

Hands off Lebanon

BECAUSE Michel Aoun is important to the Lebanese people, they do not desire to have any outside interference in their internal affairs. Aoun is still in power and is even capable of continuing in his position in spite of the fact that even one thousand and one hands are competing to finish him off.

They want to kill him — just as they did with many others who differed with their opinion.

The continuation of General Aoun in power is an indication that the Lebanese people are disgusted with war and detest interference in their internal affairs under any pretext.

The question which arises here is: In what sense or by what right are we interfering in the affairs of the Lebanese — as if we are agents for its sects? Since the inception of Lebanon, it has remained as it is without any change and no one has intervened to solve the sectarian disputes that occur between the Lebanese. They used to fight each other, then sit at the negotiation table and arrive at a solution, hug each other and everything was normalised.

The wars that erupted in Lebanon have never been lengthy such as the present ongoing one. Perhaps the reason for this is that it is not the Lebanese thinking or even sectarian differences which are involved. It is the political differences of the Arab world — added to it is the Iranian interference which through Arab participation became involved in the Lebanese crisis in spite of the fact that they do not speak Arabic.

They only know that Lebanon is located on the Mediterranean which is very strategic to them and are quite ready to pay billions to strengthen their presence. Whether these billions be in the form of cash or oil is not important. What is vital is to have a footing in the Arab lands and be capable of interfering in its internal affairs.

The Lebanese interest in seeing Aoun continue means that the general wants Lebanon free and independent without any foreign interference of whatever kind.

The Arabs are now fed up with the view of bloodshed in Lebanon. It is painful to see Lebanese children being killed by missiles that are fired by ignorant soldiers who receive orders from outside Lebanon.

All the Lebanese people earnestly desire is to have a free and independent Lebanon without any form of excuses.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Where was George?

Attention shifts to Bush's role

By Michael Gelb

WITH the verdict in on Oliver North the issue now is a pardon, and for President Bush the time to decide is near.

Bush says he hasn't even thought about whether to pardon the former Marine lieutenant colonel and White House National Security aide, convicted of destroying documents and obstructing a congressional inquiry in connection with the Iran-Contra scandal.

North faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail and a \$750,000 fine. Sentencing is scheduled for June 23.

But with the verdict in, Bush must soon face the political risks in choosing between demands from much of his conservative constituency that he pardon North, and the chance that clemency may look like a payoff to the man who took the rap for his superiors — then-president Ronald Reagan and Vice-President Bush.

"Bush faces a public perception he's been lying about his role in the affair — he has to be careful not to feed that," said Republican political strategist Kevin Phillips. "Whatever he does, the new public attention is a negative."

On the issue of a pardon, Bush must choose between his avowed that ethical conduct is one of his top priorities and his often-stated belief that North is a patriot.

"He made some mistakes. But he believed passionately in something. Ollie took the heat," Bush said during last year's presidential election campaign.

Although a pardon of North would be unlikely to incite the same passions that resulted from former president Gerald Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon in connection with the Watergate scandal, it could be seen as a reward.

A poll published on Friday in the newspaper USA Today said a majority of Americans support clemency for North, but a Los Angeles Times poll conducted two weeks ago showed two-thirds of those surveyed believe North was covering up for Bush and Reagan.

"People may feel Ollie should be pardoned, but that doesn't mean they'll like George Bush for doing it. People will say, Hey, I know why he's doing that," Phillips said.

White House officials say they hope public interest will wane after the immediate flurry of publicity accompanying the North verdict. They cite the Los Angeles Times poll showing more than half the public has little interest in the scandal, in which arms were secretly sold to Iran and some of the profits diverted to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

"The issue has been around enough that no matter what they believe, people have made up their minds," one senior Bush aide said.

Bush strategists say that the surmounted scandal, which plunged the popular Reagan into the worst crisis of his presidency, to win election to the White House and that the political impact should diminish further as time passes.

"I think it was set to rest in the last election," Bush said when asked if he wished to settle questions about his involvement in the matter.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said his advice to the president was "leave them (the Iran-Contra questions) to the historians ... and get on with the business at hand."

But with North expected to appeal his conviction on three of 12 counts and scheduled to testify in the upcoming trial of former national security adviser John Poindexter, the issue is likely to dog Bush for some time to come.

"It keeps the whole issue alive, it keeps it in the public eye," one White House official acknowledged in a private conversation.

Documents released in the North trial suggested that Bush helped to arrange a deal in which the United States provided economic assistance to Honduras in exchange for that country's help to the Contras at a time Congress had barred direct US aid to the rebels.

Bush has heatedly denied arranging such a deal and complained that "there has been much needless, mindless speculation about my word of honour."

But several polls say half of the public thinks Bush, who says he had no involvement in efforts to circumvent the ban on aid to the Contras, has lied about his role.

And leaders of the congressional committees that investigated the scandal in 1987 are demanding a new accounting from the White House of why documents that turned up at North's trial were not provided to Congress.

"Iran-Contra is an event like Watergate or the assassination of John Kennedy it will be explored for years," said Indiana Congressman Lee Hamilton, the Democrat who chaired the House of Representatives panel that investigated the scandal.

"President Bush and President Reagan still have some explaining to do," he added.

Protesting students rattle elderly Chinese leaders

Beijing looking for a scapegoat

By Mark O'Neill



Striking students in Beijing.

CHINA'S escalating student protests may claim victims among the country's top leaders but not before the Sino-Soviet summit meeting later this month, diplomats have predicted last week.

Tens of thousands of students defied official warnings and appeals for stability with an illegal march for democratic reforms through Peking for the second time in eight days.

Students also demonstrated in China's biggest city, Shanghai, and in at least three provincial capitals.

Diplomats predicted someone would take responsibility for the flagrant disobedience of government and communist party orders during three weeks of nationwide student unrest.

"No one due to meet (Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev will go," a diplomat said. "But, after the summit, there will be changes, either at the level of the Peking (municipal) government or at the highest level."

Gorbachev will be visiting China from May 15 to 18 for the first Sino-Soviet summit in 30 years.

China did not move against the students because it did not want blood on its hands before the crucial meeting and wanted to be seen to be as tolerant as the Kremlin towards dissent, diplomats said.

In protesting, students have defied warnings from the highest level, the most recent from party chief Zhao Ziyang in a speech to China's top leaders on Wednesday.

"If we lose stability, it will be too late to be sorry. We will not achieve any of what we hope to achieve and all that we have done will disappear overnight," Zhao warned.

"Without the leadership of the communist party... China has no hope and no future," he said.

At the same time Zhao, seen as belonging to the party's reformist wing, praised aspirations for democracy of China's youth and called on young people to work with the party.

His moderate words, seen as encouragement by some students, were in sharp contrast to a fierce party commentary issued in all major newspapers and on radio last week.

"This is a grave political struggle facing the whole party and Chinese citizens of all nationalities," the People's Daily thundered in an

editorial that drove students to the streets in protest the next day.

Chinese journalists said the conflicting signals reflected divisions among the leadership but it was not clear if Zhao was trying to use the student movement to bolster his position. Students demanded the government recognise their own independent union, which has been declared an illegal body.

"China does not want to recognise the union because it sees it as the start of a Chinese solidarity," a Western diplomat said, referring to the free Polish trade union.

"If it were recognised, what would be next, an independent trade union, an independent newspaper?" he said.

A Polish delegation, in Peking over the weekend, briefed its Chinese guests on how Warsaw had dealt with unrest and dissent.

The most likely candidates for the sack are the chief of the communist youth league or the party's propaganda department," the diplomat said.

Chinese journalists recalled that the last wave of student protests contributed to the forced resignation of Zhao's predecessor, Hu Yaobang, the reformist victim of party hardliners who died on April 15, triggering the campus unrest.

Another diplomat said it was hard to see Zhao or premier Li Peng losing their jobs over the protests.

"The whole leadership is in trouble. The dismissal of either of these two would mean a loss of confidence at home and abroad," he said.

He said paramount leader Deng Xiaoping may have intended to step down from his last position, chairman of the party's military commission, after the summit but this could be difficult, as it would be seen as bowing to student pressure.

Deng, 85 this year and the architect of China's reforms 10 years ago, has been attacked in name and lampooned in posters and jokes.

Diplomats predicted the party would match tough words with deeds after the summit.

"It is clear from official statements that Peking is seeking a scapegoat among foreigners accused of interfering in China and prominent intellectuals accused of egging on the students. Once Gorbachev has left, I expect expulsions (from the party) and arrests," one of the diplomats added.

Everyone wants miracles

Big task ahead for Jordan government

By Alistair Lyon

JORDAN'S new government faces formidable tasks after riots in the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan exposed discontent with austerity and political constraints.

"There are difficult times ahead," one cabinet minister said. "The economic problems have not gone away and we need to restore trust between the government and the people."

Desire to avoid upsetting Jordanians squeezed by a soaring cost of living appears to lie behind a decision to cancel an international car rally scheduled for mid-May.

The organisers said unfavourable circumstances had prompted them to call off the event, which would have taken foreign and local drivers through southern areas hit by the April riots.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Bin Shaker was sworn in a week ago after five days of protests over IMF-inspired price rises forced his predecessor, Zeid Ab-Rifa'i, to resign.

A senior official said 11 people had been killed in the violence and 650 had been detained, though all but 70 had since been freed. The total does not include communists held for alleged incitement. Relatives say they number 120.

King Hussein, who cut short a foreign tour to reassess his grip, has been receiving delegations of minor notables from some of the riot-hit towns. He has not visited any himself.

The presidents of Iraq and North Yemen and Kuwait's Crown Prince have voiced support after the riots and the king met Saudi Arabia's King Fahd during a pilgrimage to Makkah this week.

There is no word yet on whether Arab states are willing to make cash donations to Jordan, to pay off arrears owed under a 10-year agreement that expired last year or to resume subsidies.

Saudi Arabia, the only donor to fulfill its pledges, gave Amman almost \$360 million a year from 1978 to 1988.

Economists say even substantial Arab aid would only ease, not solve the economic problems of Jordan, a resource-poor country of three million. The kingdom is burdened by at least \$6 billion in foreign debt, chronic trade and budget deficits, and a severe shortage of foreign exchange.

So far the government has unveiled no new policies.

"Everyone wants miracles from us," a cabinet member said. "But it takes time to draw up well-thought-out decisions."

When ministers get down to work this week after the Eid Al-Fitr feast that ends Ramadan, they must tackle the problem of how to implement unavoidable economic reforms without triggering further challenges to Jordan's traditional stability.

Increases of 15 to 50 per cent on fuel and other items may have sparked the riots, but the protesters also focused their anger at a government seen as badly out of touch.

Islamic fundamentalists, leftists, professional groups and tribesmen circulated leaflets accusing the former government of being corrupt, misusing resources and stifling channels of expression such as parliament, political parties and the media.

King Hussein's 19-point letter of appointment set broad guidelines for the new cabinet, ordering it to execute reforms agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and speed progress towards Jordan's first general elections since 1967.

Qualifications such as "responsible" and "within reasonable limits," hedge a call for respect for freedom of expression.

And the letter swipes at Muslim militants and white collar workers by telling the government to end attempts to politicise religion and to limit the activities of professional associations to "duties for which they were first established."

Bin Shaker, a distant cousin of King Hussein and a former armed forces commander, has not held a government post before.

The structure of his cabinet indicates that supervising day-to-day affairs may be delegated to three deputy prime ministers: interior Minister Salem Mas'adeh, Foreign Minister Marwan Qassem and Minister of State Taher Al Masri.

Diplomats see the appointment of Masri, a former foreign minister from a wealthy West Bank family, as a political gesture towards Jordan's large Palestinian community.

There are fewer Palestinians in the cabinet than in many previous ones. Masri, who has always advocated good working ties with the PLO, is responsible for co-ordinating economic policy.

The business community has reacted favourably to the choices of Basel Jaradneh, Ziad Annab and Ziad Fariz as technocrats in charge of the key finance, trade and planning portfolios.

Bankers expect changes shortly at the central bank, but reports that former governor Mohammed Said Al Nabulsi will return to his old job remain unconfirmed.

The IMF wants cuts in the budget deficit over five years in return for a standby IMF credit of \$125 million, a World Bank loan of \$150 million and help with debt rescheduling.

The king instructed the government to weed out favouritism and corruption, and to deepen a dialogue with the people.

The letter extends a promise of greater democracy with the return of parliament, dissolved in July when Jordan broke legal and administrative ties with the Israel-occupied West Bank.

Arafat ruffles PLO feelings

By Alistair Lyon

FOR many Palestinians, Yasser Arafat simply stated the obvious when he pronounced obsolete the 1964 PLO charter which calls Israel's creation illegal.

"I was elected on a political programme founded on the basis of two states," Arafat told French television last week. "As for the charter, I believe there's an expression in French, 'c'est caduque' (obsolete)."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation leader was responding to French President Francois Mitterrand who had challenged him to lay to rest contradictions between the charter and the PLO's recognition of Israel's right to exist.

But by using an ambiguous French word, which can also mean null and void, Arafat angered Syrian-based Palestinian radicals alarmed at an apparently one-way stream of PLO peace gestures.

The PLO's peace offensive, launched after the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip lent new urgency to the quest for an Israeli withdrawal, has won many diplomatic points, including the start of a PLO dialogue with the United States.

But some Palestinians feel the concessions should stop until Israel begins to reciprocate. "Let the Israelis show a sign of wanting peace and not ask only one side for concessions," said Palestine National Council (PNC) member Ibrahim Abu Ayyash.

"Before asking the PLO to change the charter, let's see what (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir and (Defence Minister Yitzhak) Rabin have in their pockets — so far it's just Camp David-style autonomy," Abu

Ayyash, an independent, said.

Arafat's dismissal of the charter has ruffled the feelings even of some supporters who dislike the PLO chairman's individualistic leadership style.

"Arafat was honestly translating the new resolutions of the PNC," said deported West Bank mayor Abdul-Jawad Saleh. "But I disagree with him saying it in Paris. He should have formulated it in PLO institutions."

The Syrian-based democratic front (DFLP), which often backs Arafat's moderate line, said the PNC-approved peace drive was more important than nipping over the charter.

"We are not in the process of putting the PLO's historical document on trial as long as the PLO's peace initiative and political programme is binding the PLO leadership," DFLP official and PNC member Ahmed Al Jamal said.

Though he was named president of the self-declared state of Palestine in March, Arafat has no legal authority to abrogate the PLO's founding charter. That would require a two-thirds majority of the PNC, the legislative arm of the PLO.

"It seems that Arafat has become used to giving free concessions following each meeting he makes in Western Europe," said Khaled Al Fakhour, former PNC speaker and head of the Syrian-based Palestine National Salvation Front, which groups three anti-Arafat commando organisations in Damascus.

Palestinians in the moderate core of the charter in the mid-1970s, when the PNC first endorsed the idea of an independent state on

any part of Palestine.

They say that steady moves towards compromise, notably the PNC resolutions six months ago to renounce terrorism and adopt a two-state solution with Israel, have made the document irrelevant.

For hardline Israeli leaders, however, the charter has been a propaganda godsend because it bolsters their argument, loudly proclaimed in Washington, that the PLO remains committed to the destruction of Israel.

"We know that Arafat is a chronic liar, this declaration is not serious," a Shamir aide said.

Since the Algiers PNC meeting, Arafat has made a series of conciliatory statements designed to challenge Israel to talk peace and enlist world sympathy for the PLO's watered-down goal of creating an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza.

This year he has offered to go to Jerusalem for peace talks, provided the Arab world agreed, and has spoken of negotiating a truce between Israel and Palestinian commandos in South Lebanon.

Palestinian analyst Rami Khoury said that for the past six months PLO leaders had been articulating more clearly and explicitly a long-standing policy calling for a permanent peace in the Middle East based on a two-state solution. Legalistic arguments over the charter should not obscure the real issue.

"The substance of what Arafat and the Palestinians are telling the Israelis is, 'We are willing to live in peace with you, are you willing to live in peace with us?'" Khoury said. (Reuters)

Pakistanis unite

SIR: I would like to draw attention towards the large number of Pakistani organisations, presently existing and operating in Kuwait. Needless to explain, their object, they have almost similar aims, being patriotic and social welfare associations.

I myself being a common member of the Pakistani community was astonished to learn about them from your newspaper, I was not aware of most of them.

It is quite ridiculous that some of them can easily hold meetings on the table of a restaurant, or in a 12 sq. feet room when their numbers can be counted on fingers. If they concentrated on combining efforts, they could chalk out better programmes of development and welfare for their brothers here as well as in Pakistan.

The labour advisor's attitude was bitter towards the organizations during his recent tour of Kuwait. He preferred to talk to the engineers and doctors community exclusively keeping other organizations at a distance, advising them on unity and co-operation for the common interest.

My advice to all the organizations and associations presently active in Kuwait, is to be realistic to unite on a common platform or at least reduce the numbers by amalgamation.

I also urge the embassy of Pakistan in Kuwait to take the initiative and help by convening a combined meeting of all such organizations and associations, big or small.

Iftikhar Ahmad Shah Ahmad

Unfounded report

SIR: In your front page on May 1 you chose to put a report on ethnic strife in Sind under the headline "Sind Partition." The report has a quote from a "most reliable" source, who is Ms. Hamida Khuro, a "Sindhi nationalist."

Ms. Khuro failed to get elected to Pakistan's National Assembly, even after she stood from her home town and the family seat of the Khuros. Does she represent "Sindhu Desh"?

Sindhi nationalist candidates failed to capture even one seat in the National and Provincial Legislatures of Pakistan. They and their "Jiye Sind" movement exists only for themselves. Please do not encourage such unfounded reports in the future. As for the "Partition of Sind" let us leave that to the elected representative to decide. After all, Pakistan as a nation has managed to survive many "partitions."

Yasmeen Bhalimia Safat



Below-average performance

SIR: The 'Discovery of India' programme, staged at the Indian Arts Circle on April 27 and 28 was slightly disappointing contrary to expectations.

The entire show was semi-classical catering only to about ten to twenty per cent of the audience.

It was also highly monotonous and boring to watch all singers performing each and every song in chorus, in the same order, same posture — like statues.

However, in this manner, 'socialism' in the performing arts was achieved by levelling good average and below-average singers, and yet at the same time the director knocking off all the credit.

Kannan, Hawaii.

Inconsiderate thief

SIR: I hope the thief who stole four spare tyres from four Suzuki jeeps in the early hours of last Monday morning realises the inconvenience and trouble which has been caused to several teachers in these Jabriya flats.

I have worked in Kuwait for six years and up until last Monday have never had anything stolen. Is this a sign of things to come?

Heather Underwood, Safat.

Hit show

SIR: I would like to congratulate the members of the Baratiya Kala Sangam on their first cultural programme which was staged last Friday to celebrate 'Baisakhi' and the Nehru Centenary. The children's items were really good especially the fancy dress show. I hope they will organise more cultural programmes in future and also arrange a bigger venue.

Vijay Bhaliah, Safat.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Domestic scene complicates telecom dispute compromise

Japan lacks 'central power structure'

TOKYO, May 8, (Reuters): Lack of strong political leadership in Tokyo and divisions among bureaucrats are making it tough for Japan to avoid US sanctions for alleged unfair trade in telecommunications, some trade analysts said.

"We've got a headless monster here," said Darrel Whitten, industry analyst at Prudential-Bache Securities (Japan). "There is no leadership among the politicians and the bureaucrats continue to shoot at random."

Pledge

Minister of International Trade and Industry Hiroshi Mitsuoka said today that Japan should reply to US demands for access to the Japanese cellular telephone market for Motorola by May 27, which would be before Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's expected resignation.

Takeshita's pledge to resign, and the

ruling Democratic Party (LDP)'s worries over stemming the damage from the scandal which led to his downfall, make it hard for Japan to craft a reply to satisfy Washington, the analysts said.

Takeshita said on April 25 that because of the Recruit scandal, he and his cabinet would resign after the 1989/90 budget is passed. The scandal centres around scores of public figures who received gifts or contributions from the Recruit publishing firm, allegedly in return for favours.

The budget is expected to be passed by May 27. Mitsuoka, who returned on Sunday from Washington, told reporters: "I think for the sake of a relationship of trust, it is our responsibility to say by May 27... what we are going to do." But he said a final decision must be made by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPT). MPT has so far rejected US demands

that it allow Motorola's Japanese joint venture to offer cellular telephone service in the lucrative Tokyo-Nagoya market as well as in western and northern Japan.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), which lost a battle with the MPT over control of the telecommunications business in the early 1980s, is keen for a settlement of the dispute with the United States.

Power

Possible targets for sanctions because of it include cosmetics, computers, and tape recorders as well as telecommunications gear.

The Trade Ministry would like to see the makers of these products spared any fall out from the telecommunications spat.

MITI appears to have little power to force MPT to compromise, some trade analysts said. And with a lame duck

premier the political leadership to bring about a solution is lacking, they said.

"The LDP is more worried about its derriere than what's happening to trade," Whitten said.

Some other trade experts said that despite the political situation and bureaucratic splits, Japan could still fashion a compromise that would satisfy Washington.

"Theories that Japan lacks a central power structure or chief decision maker are irrelevant," said John Stern, executive director of the US Electronics Industry Japan office.

"When confronted with an irresistible argument, Japan makes lightning adjustments," he said.

US Trade Representative Carla Hills said yesterday that America is ready to retaliate for violations of trade agreements, but would prefer to negotiate.

OECD urged to take note of Asia's little dragons

SEOUL, May 8, (Reuters): The heat generated by Asia's four "little dragons" economies in the Far East is being felt all the way across the world at the rich man's club in the West.

Efforts are being made to prod the Paris-based Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to consider admitting Asia's four fastest growing economies — Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong — into its exclusive fold.

In Washington, such a proposal recently came from the House of Representatives' subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs. Japan, the OECD's only Asian member, has expressed broadly similar views.

But there are complications: two of the four — South Korea and Singapore — have reservations about membership and China claims sovereignty over the other two.

While early entry is unlikely, Asian officials said it was high time the 24-member group of non-communist developed nations struck a deal with Asia's newly industrialising economies (NIES).

Force

"Combined, we are a force advanced countries can no longer ignore," said Lee Yong-Hee, a director at South Korea's Economic Planning Ministry.

"We are waiting for the OECD secretariat to come up with specific proposals," said Patrick Lau, Hong Kong's assistant director of trade.

The Asian Development Bank said the four economies grew an average rate of nine per cent on a gross domestic product basis in 1988, way above most OECD equivalents.

An ADB report in April forecast the NIES would see slower expansion in 1989 because of lower growth in the United States and Japan, their main export markets, and local factors such as currency appreciation.

Still the four now have collective trade flows rivaling that of Japan. Their total merchandise trade volume, according to official statistics, was about \$435 billion in calendar 1988 against Japan's \$452 billion.

In Paris, the OECD secretariat played down speculation on the four's possible entry and declined official comment.

"Any would-be applicant would have to be sure of gaining unanimous consent," one diplomat said in Paris.

Bonn oil firm to invest \$250m in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela, May 8, (AP): A West German oil company has announced plans to invest some \$250 million in joint petrochemical projects in Venezuela, according to news reports.

The president of Veba Oel, Hubert Heneka, made the announcement on Saturday following a meeting with Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Celestino Armas, according to daily El Universal.

The initial stage of the project would involve the creation of a joint venture with Pequiven, the petrochemical branch of the Venezuelan-owned Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), to conduct studies of local demand for propylene and polypropylene, according to Heneka.

Veba would invest in the construction of propylene and polypropylene plants in Venezuela, according to Heneka.

PDVSA jointly owns a West German oil refinery with Veba Oel.

Algeria, Nigeria manage to reduce debts

Saudi Arabia's net assets jump

BASLE, Switzerland, May 8, (KUNA): OPEC members overall financial standing in the commercial banking system deteriorated slightly during 1988, with their net assets falling by just over \$300 million to \$9,685 billion, according to figures from the Bank of International Settlements.

However, for the last six months of the year, OPEC's position had steadily improved, with a significant rise from the low point reached in June, when the net assets of the 13 stood at \$34.7 billion.

Deal

The statistics from the BIS, which is the central banks' clearing house, showed that the OPEC state whose position changed the most dramatically between 1987 and 1988 was Saudi Arabia, which saw its net assets rise from \$43 billion to \$2 billion.

The figures covered all banking transactions with the commercial banks, and did not deal with the positions of country and institutions such as the World Bank and

the International Monetary Fund.

Another big winner during 1988 was the UAE, whose standing improved from nearly \$18 billion to over \$21 billion.

However, one of the other big Gulf oil producers, Kuwait, saw its position worsen slightly, with net assets dropping from \$8 billion to \$7.5 billion, while Iraq witnessed a similar trend, with its debt of \$8 billion increasing to nearly \$6.4 billion.

The full figures for all 13 OPEC members are listed below:

	End 1987	End 1988
Algeria	-12,652	-12,300
Ecuador	-3,282	-1,147
Gabon	-1,165	-1,147
Indonesia	-12,272	-12,856
Iraq	-4,408	-3,372
Iran	-5,808	-6,385
Kuwait	+8,146	+7,493
Libya	-6,170	-3,429
Nigeria	-7,000	-5,894
Qatar	-2,933	-2,592
Saudi Arabia	+43,109	+52,477
UAE	+17,992	+21,304
Venezuela	-8,851	-9,616
Total	44,000	+39,685

Libya also saw a significant decline in its standing, with its net assets dropping by nearly half, to \$3.4 billion.

However, two other producers of high quality crudes, Algeria and Nigeria, managed to reduce their debts over the year.

Nigeria's recovery from indebtedness is illustrated by the fact that in June it had a deficit with the banks of almost \$8.9 billion, which by December had shrunk to close to \$5.9 billion.

North Sea heading for 10-year output low

OPEC production surges

LONDON, May 8, (Reuters): British North Sea oil output could drop to its lowest for a decade in May because of offshore accidents, allowing Norway into top spot in Western Europe's monthly production table for the first time since 1976.

"Average UK output in the month could slip below 1.5 million barrels per day (BPD) for the first time since April 1979," said analyst Gareth Lewis Davies at Woodmac, a brokerage which specialises in the study of North Sea oil developments.

Lewis Davies said that if British output fell under 1.5 million BPD in May, Norway would probably end up producing more oil in the month than Britain for the first time since September 1976. Norway, Western Europe's number two oil producer, pumped a record 1.53 million BPD in March.

He said the drop in British output was temporary and largely due to the closure of the important Brent pipeline system on

April 18 after a gas explosion.

It was pumping some 472,000 BPD or a quarter of what Britain was producing, and the accident briefly last month sent New York crude oil futures prices above \$25 a barrel for the first time in three years.

Operators Shell Expro, a joint venture of Exxon Corp and the Anglo-Dutch Shell Group, now say May 26 is the most likely date for it to restart.

"It is a blip, something of a short-term feature," Lewis Davies said of the slump in British output. "But we nevertheless felt it was of note."

Woodmac sees production recovering gradually to 1.7 million BPD in June, assuming full Brent output by then. Routine maintenance will keep a lid on output over the summer but by September it saw production of 2.4 million.

Petroleum Intelligence Weekly (PIW), an industry newsletter, had a similar view.

"The UK North Sea is heading

for a 10-year production low of less than 1.5 million BPD this month, but output should rebound by over 600,000 BPD by July and rise steadily into the autumn, barring further accidents," it said.

Meanwhile OPEC oil output rose in April faster than at any time since a glut last autumn to an average of 20.9 million barrels per day (BPD) for the month.

Signs of rising output by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries have in recent days helped take oil prices down from a three-year peak which they touched in April just after a gas explosion closed a quarter of British output.

New York crude futures briefly rose last month above \$25 a barrel, compared with around \$20 in April.

It said that OPEC output, if averaged over the first three months of 1989, was still about two million BPD below where it was last autumn when prices fell to around \$12.

OAPEC calls for shift to lead-free petrol

KUWAIT, May 8, (Reuters): The 10-state Arab oil producers' group has called on Arab countries to switch quickly to unleaded petrol to reduce pollution and protect the health of children.

"Protection of the environment from pollutants with irreversible effects should start now. The future health of Arab children must not be compromised," said an editorial in the May bulletin of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

"A concerted effort must be made to distribute unleaded gasoline," said the editorial. The organisation estimated that by next year petrol consumption in the region would reach 800,000 barrels per day (BPD), up from 300,000 in 1980.

"Lead pollution is expected to rise concomitantly, especially since most gasoline sold in Arab markets contains high levels of lead," said the bulletin.

OAPEC groups Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tun-

isia and the United Arab Emirates. Excessive lead levels in the air have been blamed for brain damage in children.

Meanwhile, Abu Dhabi, the largest emirate in the United Arab Emirates, witnessed a substantial rise in its non-oil exports and re-exports during 1988 compared with the year before.

According to a report, non-oil exports rose by 26.7 per cent to \$173 million in 1988, while re-exports leapt by over 50 per cent to reach \$72 million.

US probe of futures exchanges targets most visible traders

NEW YORK, May 8, (Reuters): Federal regulators have subpoenaed three leading figures in the New York commodities markets in their investigation of futures exchanges, industry officials said on Friday.

The officials, who requested anonymity, identified the three as Mark Fisher, Preston Semel and Mark Dickstein.

The traders were not available for comment on Friday. A subpoena, which is an order to supply information, does not mean any wrongdoing.

No charges have been filed in either the civil case, being handled by the Commodities Future Trading Commission (CFTC), which regulates futures markets, or the criminal case, which is under the jurisdiction of the

federal prosecutor in Manhattan.

In a swoop, through four New York exchanges on Thursday, the CFTC handed out subpoenas to six members of the Commodity Exchange (COMEX) and asked the exchange to produce documents on 27 past and present exchange members. The exchange trades precious and base metals.

Contract

The CFTC also handed out 20 subpoenas to present and former members of the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), which has futures contracts in energy and precious metals.

The investigation could involve as many as 50 traders, sources at the exchanges said. Brokers at the eight-floor trading room

that groups five separate exchanges were subdued on Friday and prices matched the dull outlook.

In addition to the NYMEX and the COMEX, the two major commodities markets in New York, the eighth floor of the World Trade Centre also holds trading pits for the coffee, sugar, and cocoa exchange and the New York Cotton Exchange. Subpoenas were also handed out there.

The New York Futures Exchange is on the same floor but has not been involved.

NYMEX traders said there was speculation the investigators had seized records of traders that may show they were creating favourable tax losses from pre-arranged artificial trades in commodities.



Share traders pile over each other at a trading counter of the Tokyo Stock Exchange yesterday as shares rose to a new record, above 34,000 for the first time, ending the morning session at 34,051.49. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gold strengthens

Dollar mixed

Tokyo stocks surge again

Record high in active trade

LONDON, May 8, (AP): The dollar was mixed in European trading late this morning. Gold prices moved up.

Traders said foreign exchange trading was calm with the dollar moving within a narrow range.

One Rome trader said "movements were minimal."

The dollar remained well supported by expectations that US interest rates will not fall and may even rise a bit because US economic growth is not slowing enough for the US Federal Reserve to ease monetary policy, they said.

Another Rome trader said central banks would almost certainly intervene to stem the dollar's advance, but that they would have to increase their intervention significantly to have any effect.

In Tokyo, where trading ends before Europe's business day begins, the dollar closed at 134.52 yen, up 0.67 yen from last Tuesday. The Japanese market was closed the rest of the week for holidays.

Later, in London, the dollar was quoted at 134.60 yen.

Other dollar rates at mid-morning, compared with late Friday: — 1.8979 West German marks, down from 1.8988

— 1.6965 Swiss francs, down from 1.6985

— 6.4055 French francs, down from 6.4080

An official at Nikko Securities said bullish sentiment held sway, offsetting concerns over the yen's continued slide and some sporadic profit-taking.

Although the Nikkei Average has gained more than 1,200 yen during the current streak, investors felt the market had not yet overheated and further rises were expected, the official said.

— 2.1374 Dutch guilders, up from 2.1285

— 1.3852 Italian lire, up from 1.3790

— 1.1838 Canadian dollars, down from 1.1842

In London, the British pound fell to \$1.6739, compared with \$1.6740 Friday.

Gold opened in London at a bid price of \$376.95 a troy ounce, up from \$376.25 bid late Friday.

At midmorning today, the city's five major bullion dealers fixed a recommended price of \$377.15.

In Zurich, the bid price was \$377.00, up from \$375.85 bid late Friday.

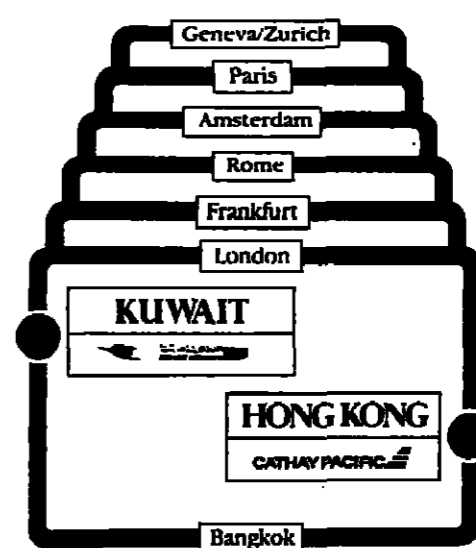
Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold rose 48 cents to close at a bid \$378.41.

Silver was quoted in London today at a bid price of \$5.61 a troy ounce, up from Monday's \$5.60.

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ABBEY LIFE	279/0	LAPORTE	430/0
ADT LTD	169.5	LAGMO	466/0
ALD LYONS	461/0	LEGAL+GEN	327.0
AMSTRAD	112.0	LOWRHO	275/0
ARCYLL GP	192/6	LUCAS IND	625/0
ASDA GP	165.5	MAGNET	292.0
BAA	385/0	MARKS+SP	169/0
BTR	377/0	MAXWELL C	191/0
BAT INDS	540/0	NB GROUP	208.0
BARKLAYS	452/0	MECCA LET	172/0
BASS	943.5	MEPC	580/0
BEAZER	194/0	NEXT	144.0
BEECHAMS	627/0	NTN FOODS	304.0
BERISFORD	55.50	P & O DFD	674/0
BICC PLC	522/0	PEARL	412/0
BLUE ARMY	98.0	PEARSON	725.0
BLUE CIRC	558.0	PILKINGTON	242/0
BQC GP	493/4	PLESSEY	262/0
BOOTS CO	294/0	POLLY PEC	309.0
BPB INDS	241/0	RACAL ELC	467/0
BR COHN	208/0	RACAL TEL	394.0
BR AIRWAY	203/0	RANK KVIS	347/0
BR AEROSP	600/0	RANK ORG	970/0
BR GAS RG	180.0	RCKITT+CO	117/0
BR LAND	368/0	REED	552.0
B.P.P.	281/0	REDLAND	400/0
B.P.P.FP	281.0	RMC RCP	703/0
BR STEEL	86/0	REUTERS	766/0
BR TELCOM	268/0	RTZ CORP.	538/0
BURNAL OH	562/0	ROLLS ROY	185.0
BURTON	213/0	ROTMAN B	507/0
CABLEWLR	511/6	ROYAL INS	415.0
CADBURYS	361/6	SAATCHI	282/4
CALOR GRP	397/0	SAINSBURY	242/0
CRLTN CO	873/0	SCOT+NEW	300/0
COATS VTY	157/6	SEARS	119/0
COOKSONS	316.0	SEGEWICK	248.0
COURTAULD	324/0	SHELL	396.0
DALGETY	350/0	SIEBE	430/0
DIXONS	137/0	SLOUGH ES	353/0
ENG CHINA	505/0	STD.CHART	586/0
ENTER OIL	547/0	STC	343/0
FKT BARCK	165/0	STORENSEH	168/0
FERRANTI	109/0	SUN ALLTA	175.0
FISONS	296.0	SUN LIFE	900.0
GATEWAY	194.0	TARMAC	325.0
GEN ACCIO	950.0	TATELEYLE	246/0
GEN ELEC	236.0	TYLR WOOD	635/0
GLAND	365.0	TRAF HSE	387/0
GRAMADA	345/0	TSS	108/0
GLOBE	173.5	T + N	212/0
GLYNED	170.0	TOLSTAN	305/0
GUARD RYL	210/0	UNILEVER	315/0
GNCL	383.0	UNILEVER	369/0
GUINNESS	475.0	UNICATE	365/0
HUMERSON A	792/0	UTD NUSRP	433/0
HANSON	193/4	VELLCOME	478/0
HARRISN C	175/0	WBRDRO IN	362/0
HUKER SID	708.0	WILLIAMS	270/0
HILLSDOWN	269.0	WILLIS FB	218/0
IMI	235.0	WIMPEY GC	283/6

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPE
22D ALLCE	898/0	897/0
600 GROUP	125/0	126/0
A.AMER TS	443/0	443/0
A.B.ELECT	408/0	408/0
A.S.V.HLD	275/0	275/0
AAB KENT	114/0	112/0
AAH HLD	400/0	400/0
AARONSON	111/0	110/0
ADDISON	45.8	4
ADJEST	172/0	170/0
ALEX WRKV	192/0	193/0
ALEXON	394/0	393/0
ALD COLL	140/0	141/0
ALD JR B	319/0	320/0
ALD LON	151/0	151/0
ALD PART	73/0	73/0
ALLIANCE	008/0	009/0
AMBER DAY	54/4	54/4
AMEC	473/0	463/0
AMERN TST	139/0	139/0
AMERNHSM	490/0	492/0
AMIL BLTHC	350/0	349/0
ANGHIA SEC	392/0	396/0
ANGHIA TSV	280/0	281/0
ANSBACHER	77/0	76/0
APPLEYARD	181/0	181/0
ASHSHLEY L	101/0	100/0
ASUN REE A	247/0	244/0
AUST SEC	390/0	385/0
AVUTO RECS	287/0	288/0
AVESCO	148/0	147/0
BEVVIS EUR	415/0	404/0
BROWN RUBB	613/0	612/0
B.WERNHIL	240/0	245/0
BALDWIN JAP	542/0	545/0
BALDWIN SEC	97/0	97/0
BAIRD (W)	249/0	248/0
BANK REE	302/0	301/0
BANKMAN IT	91/4	92/0
BARDON GP	174/0	173/0
BARTON DEV	197/0	197/0
BAYNES C	34/0	34/0
BAZ GROUP	197/0	198/0
BEAR BRND	11/4	11/4
BEATTATTE J	158/0	156/0
BLERHAVEN	51/4	53/0
BELLWAY	247/0	248/0
BENMOROSE	239/0	238/0
BLOX HD	67/0	68/0
BKELEY	238/0	239/0
B GROUP	133/0	133/0
OF SEC	95/0	93/0
CK L2	11/6	12/0
GROUP	443/0	443/0
NETT +F	90/4	90/4
SEAS MAS	321/0	321/4
DDINGWT	173/0	173/0
Y SHOP	539/0	541/0
ENHR	485/0	483/0

BR ARROW	114/0
BR ASSETS	80/4
BR DREDGI	163/0
BR MIRA	272/0

BRENT CHE	216/0
BRENT CHE	148/0
BREITKR	366/0
BRIDON	192/0
BRITANN SE	196/0
BRITANNIC	395/0
BRIXON E	398/0
BRM & JAC	45/4
BROWN SHI	349/0
BRYANT GP	115/0
BSG INTL	76/4
BSR INTL	61/0
BUDGENS	147.0
BULLOUGH	184/0
BULMER HW	174/0
CAIRD GRP	426/0
CALENDONIA	374/0
CAMB ELEC	242/0
CAMFORD E	271/0
CANNING W	270/0
CANNON ST	230/0
CAP.RADIO	772/0
CARADON	359/0
CARLCO EN	155/0
CATTLE HD	76/0
CAULDON	12/4
CENTL INT	758/0
CHAM PHRR	223.0
CHARTERHA	25/2
CHAS CHUR	117/0
CHLORIDE	46/0
CHRISTIES	868/0
CI GROUP	49/0
CLAYFLOOM	320/0
CMB PK NW	95/0
CNTRL SEC	61/6
CNTRY OIL	192/0
COALITE	424/0
COLOROLL	171/0
CONNELLS	220/0 2/0
COOPER F	159/0 1/0
COSTAIN	192/0 3/0
COURTNS FR	325/0 0/0
COMIE (T)	137/0 1/0
CRH	190/0 1/0
CRODA INT	210/0 2/0
CRYSTALAT	150/0 1/0
CTRY EST	264/0 2/0
DARES PROP	32/6
DAVIS CORP	181/0 1/0
DAVID GORD	248/0 2/0
DAWSON GP	187/0 1/0
DELTA GRP	321/0 3/0
DEVENISH	315/0 3/0
DEWHIRST	44/0
DIPLOMA	259/0 2/0
DORSON PK	94/0 5/0
DOMPAS GR	30/0 0/0
DOWDINGEM	74/0 7/0
DOWTY GRP	275/0 2/0
DRAYTON FE	435/0 4/0
DRAYTON C	545/0 4/0
DRG	453/0 4/0
DUKENISTR	78/0 7/0

/0	HEPWORTH	28
/4	HESTAIR	22
/0	HEYWOOD W	28

09/0	WICSON	1	27
048/0	WIGGS MIL	54	17
092/0	WMRO CITY	22	22
092/0	WMRD ZOP	22	22
096/0	WMR SPRK	10	10
096/0	WOLFS	13	13
098/0	WOMDEN GP	15	15
045/4	WOPKINSON	77	77
050/0	WTV GROUP	62	62
050/0	WTC.FZ.FD	34	34
061/0	WMY N.DV	4	4
086/0	WINDPOT W	149	149
086/0	WINOCC PLC	32	32
075/0	WIN.BU.CN	143	143
072/0	WIN.CITY	62	62
066/0	WJNSNFR.FI	55	55
066/0	JOS HLDGS	148	148
060/0	KALAMAZOO	36	36
060/0	KALON GRP	38	38
060/0	KELT ENGY	58	58
060/0	KEYSTON	19	19
060/0	KLMRT CHR	163	163
060/0	KLMRT O'S	155	155
060/0	KLMRT SKL	183	183
060/0	KWIK FAVE	43	43
060/0	KWIK-GIT	118	118
060/0	LAING 'A'	35	35
060/0	LAING ORD	35	35
060/0	LAING PRP	278	278
060/0	LAIRD GRP	511	511
060/0	LAWRENCE W	15	15
060/0	LDN & MET	187	187
060/0	LDN ATLAN	213	213
060/0	LDN INTL	213	213
060/0	LDN UTD	70	70
060/0	LDNBEDIN	150	150
060/0	LEISURE I	163	163
060/0	LEISURE L	99	99
060/0	LES SERVC	374	374
060/0	LIFE SCJ	73	73
060/0	LIFELY FJ	67	67
060/0	LIT	139	139
060/0	LLOYT	22	22
060/0	LOVELL HD	267	267
060/0	LOWBONNER	218	218
060/0	M&G GROUP	321	321
060/0	N.C.PACIF	240	240
060/0	M&CATURY	260	260
060/0	M&CARFINE	819	819
060/0	MAI	288	288
060/0	MAJDEB	244	244
060/0	MAJDEB	267	267
060/0	MARLEY	1666	1666
060/0	MATTHEWS	74	74
060/0	MAUNDERS	1108	1108
060/0	MECHCNIE	339	339
060/0	MENZIES	254	254
060/0	MERCH. TST	180	180
060/0	MERLIN IN	106	106
060/0	MET CLX	185	185
060/0	METAL RLS	100	100

279/0	RUGBY GRP
223/0	RUTLAND T
290/0	SAGA GRP

70	SALF TCM
240/0	SALVENSE
70	SAVILE C
46/0	SAVON 14
228/0	SCHR. GLOB
153/0	SCOT HERR
106/0	SCOT I.T.
155/0	SCOT NET
75/0	SCOT MORT
117/0	SCOT AM.T
348/0	SET NAT C
450/0	SET NAT C
15/0	SET NAT W
35/0	SET NAT W
148/0	SECS TSP
65/0	SELCTV 1P
55/4	SEMA GRP
148/0	SHANDWICK
32/0	SHERATON
49/0	SHIRE INV
39/0	SIMON ENG
	SINGER&R
10	SMITH D
145/0	SOUND DIF
135/0	SPRING RAM
184/0	SPRAX-SARC
634/0	ST. ANDREW
119/0	ST. JOHNS
351/0	ST. MOOREN
351/0	STAKIS
512/0	STEETLEY
278/0	STENED PR
151/0	STODARD
188/0	STORNGUAR
313/0	T.I.P.E.
213/0	T.S.U.R. EU
70/0	TELCHETK
150/0	TELCHETK
93/0	THAMES TV
170/0	THORNTONS
393/0	THROUGHT
67/4	TI GROUP
129/0	TIE RACK
235/0	TILBURY
225/0	TIME PROD
385/0	TIPHOOK
266/0	TOKINS F
221/0	TOOTAL
317/0	TOZER &B
249/0	TR CITY
218/0	TR PROPTY
88/0	TR TRASTE
244/0	TRIMOCO
216/0	TRIPLEX
167/0	TRITON ER
74/0	TRSPRT DV
117/0	TV SW HLD
302/0	TVS ENT
265/0	U-BORLAND
75/0	U-BRST ST
180/4	U-BROACLD
106/0	U-CITYTWS
185/0	U-DEANZ80
99/0	U-DEWAY E

192/0	192/0
45/0	46/0
75/0	295/0

139/140	245/0	NAME
139/141	0	A BSSD
85/10	55/0	ATLAN
88/10	89/0	ABR C
282/28	280/0	ANRO
177/17	178/0	ADN H
153/15	153/4	ACH N
171/17	172/0	AERO
125/12	123/0	AETNA
106/10	106/0	ALBANI
99/4	99/4	ALBES
13/13	13/0	ALBMA
18/18	18/0	ALCO S
31/19	320/0	ALM
136/15	137/0	ALM S
256/15	256/0	ALM S
403/40	404/0	ALM S
68/68	68/0	ALM S
273/27	273/0	ALM S
22	22/0	ALM S
140/14	141/0	ALM S
236/23	235/0	ALM S
211/21	211/0	ALM S
110/10	110/0	ALM S
432/42	431/0	ALM S
225/22	224/0	ALM S
48/48	48/0	ALM S
20/4	21/0	ALM S
235/23	235/0	ALM S
197/19	198/0	ALM S
43/43	43/0	ALM S
43/43	43/0	ALM S
43/43	43/0	ALM S
174/17	174/0	ALM S
89/90	90/0	ALM S
44/44	44/0	ALM S
68/67	67/0	ALM S
86/86	86/0	ALM S
263/26	262/0	ALM S
136/13	134/0	ALM S
178/18	179/0	ALM S
91/91	91/0	ALM S
88/88	88/4	ALM S
60/60	60/0	ALM S
52/52	52/4	ALM S
43/43	43/0	ALM S
75/75	74/0	ALM S
72/72	71/0	ALM S
41/41	41/0	ALM S
84/84	83/0	ALM S
32/32	32/0	ALM S
81/81	81/0	ALM S
42/42	42/0	ALM S
99/100	200/0	ALM S
191/19	185/0	ALM S
91/91	193/0	ALM S
191/19	190/0	ALM S
3	3	ALM S
C	C	ALM S
C	C	ALM S

NEW YORK

	39/0	39/1
COM	90/2	90/6
IC R	29/4	29/4
XP	55/5	55/5
LVD	10/2	10/2
CRO	8/5	8/5
LA	4/2	4/3
IFE	52/0	52/3
CH	19/7	19/7
ON	42/0	42/0
AIR	27/7	27/6
-16	43/4	43/6
L	0	82/6
LIUM	32/5	32/5
AND	29/0	29/0
SEC	20/7	21/0
MTD	54/2	54/5
LY	18/4	18/4
PRO	92/4	93/6
ARO	10/0	10/1
ES	60/6	60/6
TEL	34/4	34/4
GRP	43/0	43/2
	42/2	42/2
ITT	0	14/5
PC	62/3	63/0
CO	33/6	33/7
HE	37/3	37/4
ELE	10/3	10/4
CP	10/3	10/4
-12	80/6	82/2
NG	37/2	37/4
DIF	41/4	42/4
ICIL	10/0	10/0
IT	12/7	13/0
IC	24/4	24/4
HT	25/2	25/1
DOS	36/0	36/1
	31/2	31/2
TH	43/3	43/4
CEL	34/1	34/4
	22/3	22/0
	8/5	8/5
TON	25/4	25/5
ARK	0	38/5
FA	43/6	43/6
CA	45/3	45/3
REC	24/7	24/7
EC	6/3	6/3
NO	76/2	76/5
SLD	46/1	46/1
	7/3	7/3
	62/0	62/2
	31/1	31/1
ON	45/2	45/4
TR	26/7	26/7
ER	48/6	48/7
P	18/7	19/0
	11/6	11/5
EL	21/0	21/1
BB	11/1	11/1

EN DYNMCS	56/5
EN ELECT	47/7
EN HOST	8/6

GEN HOUSUR	0
GEN INSTR	31/5
GEN MILLS	61/7
GEN MOTORS	39/5
GEN SIGNAL	55/3
GENCORP	18/0
GENETECH	19/0
GENUINE PA	39/4
GEO PW-80	0
GEORGI-PAC	46/0
GIBR FI CL	*16
GOLDEN NGL	22/0
GOODRICH	56/7
GOODYEAR	50/3
GRACE WR	31/0
GRAINGER	60/0
GREYHOUND	33/2
GRUNMAN	28/2
GULF RES-C	11/6
GULF WESTN	51/3
HALLIBURTON	30/3
HALLWOOD	14/0
HANNA MIN	25/0
HARRIS CP	29/2
HARTMARX	26/6
HEINZ NJ	49/5
HEW CURTIS	37/6
HEIL-PATNE	22/2
HERCULES	47/6
HEMP-PAK	54/5
HEXCEL CP	28/6
HILLENBRND	32/0
HILTN HTLS	63/4
HITACHI	120/2
HUNSTOCK MIN	13/2
HUNTLEY-HARRN	20/1
HOLIDAY C	38/2
HOME DEPOT	40/0
HOMERFD CP	38/0
HOMERIDA MOTR	28/4
HOUGHTWELL	74/0
HOUGHTW MI	38/1
HOUSTON IN	28/7
HUGHES SUP	18/0
HUMANA INC	31/1
HUN	109/1
ICON PHARMA	6/7
ILIT PHR CO	15/0
ILLILIN 4-08	0
INDIA CROW	12/0
INDUSTRIAL-RR	39/7
INTEFF PILOT	33/2
INVER PW 8-5	0
JOHNSON CN	44/3
JOHNSON-JNS	94/5
J MARY CP	37/5
JACOB CI P-L	30/0
JELLWOOD	30/2
KERR MCGEE	47/5
KEYSTONE	19/0
KILBING-CLARK	62/4
KING R. O. A1	22/2

77 MRS H-MCLEN
77 MURPHY OIL
74 NAT INTERG
74 NAT CORP

17/1	NCA CORP	
17/1	NEW ENG EL	
17/1	NEW CLA RE	
17/1	NEUMBL CO	
17/1	NEUMONT GLD	
17/1	NI MOB6-10	
17/1	NI MOB7-72	
17/1	NICOR IN	
17/1	NICOR INC	
17/1	NL INDS	
17/1	NOBLE AFF	
17/1	NORD RESOU	
17/1	NORTHROP	
17/1	NORTON	
17/1	NOVO NORD	
17/1	NUCOR CORP	
17/1	OAK INS	
17/1	OCC PETRCP	
17/1	OCEAN DRIL	
17/1	OGDEN CORP	
17/1	OH ED CO	
17/1	OHIO MATT	
17/1	OLIN CORP	
17/1	OMNICARE	
17/1	ORION PICT	
17/1	PAINE WEB	
17/1	PAN AM	
17/1	PANHANDLE	
17/1	PARKER DRI	
17/1	PARKER HAN	
17/1	PATRICK PET	
17/1	PULLMAN CO	
17/1	PC INDS-96	
17/1	PEGASUS	
17/1	PENN CENTR	
17/1	PERMUNALT	12
17/1	PEMNIOLD	8
17/1	PEOPLES EN	2
17/1	PEPSICO	4
17/1	PFIZER	6
17/1	PHELPS DOR	12
17/1	PHILIP MOR	5
17/1	PHILLIPS PE	1
17/1	PINACLE W	2
17/1	PITT-BOWES	4
17/1	PITTSO	2
17/1	POLAROID	3
17/1	PORLTND GE	20
17/1	PPG INDS	1
17/1	PRIME COMP	4
17/1	PRIME INNS	2
17/1	PRIMERICA	20
17/1	PROCT-GAMB	9
17/1	PUGET-SAL	16
17/1	PULTE HOME	14
17/1	QUAKER OAT	5
17/1	QUAKER COR	17
17/1	QUANTUM CH	5
17/1	RALS PURIN	1
17/1	RANDALL INN	11

0	60/2	SEALED
3	35/2	SEALED
4	16/6	SEARS
2	2/3	SERV CO

8/3	58/3	SA SWELL
3/3	23/5	SN KIN
5/6	15/5	SHEN PUL
7/7	37/7	SHEN-HU-LE
1/1	37/3	SHITTA
0	58/4	SHITHK
0	74/1	SHWAP-ON
1/5	11/6	SOURCE
3/3	33/2	SOUTHERN
6/10	24/1	SPAIN F
2/2	12/2	SPERRY
2/4	13/3	SQUARE
3/7	28/6	SQUIBB
1/1	41/6	STONE C
3/1	49/1	SUN CO
1/1	1/2	SUNSHIN
5/7	27/0	SUPER W
10/0	18/0	SOUTHERN
5/5	20/5	SU GAS
0	25/1	SV BEL
6/10	53/0	TACO
1/7	3/7	TECO EN
1/1	19/6	TELETRON
3/3	4/4	TELEDRY
1/1	18/2	TELEPHO
2/2	22/3	TELEX C
4/4	6/4	TELEPHO
1/1	27/1	TESORO
2	5/1	TEX ABE
0	0	TEXACO
0	89/4	TEXAS I
1/1	9/1	TEXAS II
6/6	26/6	TEXTRON
4	129/3	THOMPS
7/7	84/5	TIME TNS
10	21/0	TIMKEN
12	62/5	TORCHMAR
1/5	60/0	TOSCO
4	127/1	TOYS R
5	23/0	TRANSAM
12	12/5	TRANSCO
6	42/6	TRANSCO
2	20/4	TRAVELLE
7/7	38/7	TRINITY
2	22/4	TYCO LAB
3	18/3	UAL CORP
2	14/3	UTO BEACH
1	29/1	UNIVERVE
6	19/6	UNION CAS
6	18/6	UNION CAS
5	14/6	US SHOE
6	56/4	USX CP
0	16/7	US WEST
3	51/6	US AIR C
3	82/3	VALERO E
4	11/4	VALLEY I
		VALLEY I

51/0	51/1
43/0	43/1
20/0	20/2

AC	22/4	22/5
AN	40/4	40/5
U	67/0	66/6
LL	27/1	27/2
T	10/4	10/6
EC	61/4	61/7
FL	38/2	38/5
TP	38/4	38/3
	23/3	23/3
ND	10/7	10/7
	9/5	9/6
	54/6	54/4
WT	20/4	20/4
	39/6	40/2
ND	63/4	63/2
N	2/1	5/2
L	20/5	20/5
T	26/6	27/0
	17/5	17/7
	48/6	48/6
RG	65/3	65/0
K	23/6	23/5
	21/7	22/1
	34/9/2	350/4
IC	23/6	23/6
PC	0	69/0
EY	13/0	13/0
B	11/5	11/5
	0	06
	48/6	58/6
	55/5	55/6
ST	33/7	33/5
	40/5	40/4
D	25/6	26/0
	0	22/3
OR	8/0	9/7
	115/2	115/4
	34/1	36/5
	35/6	36/0
	4/6	4/6
	42/1	42/1
	33/4	33/5
N	40/6	40/1
S	5/7	5/7
N	38/1	38/5
N	35/1	34/7
	32/0	32/1
	35/2	35/4
	123/2	124/6
	14/0	14/2
	50/3	50/5
	63/4	63/6
	37/0	37/3
	30/5	30/5
	18/3	18/1
	35/2	34/0
	65/1	65/3
	43/5	44/0
	18/1	18/2
	2/1	2/2

World Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
FT 30 ORD	1762.7	1770.9	1770.9	1455.3
FT 500 SHR	0	1202.6	1202.6	1008.8
FT ALL SHR	1097.29	1097.29	1090.77	1076.15
FT GDC SEC	86.85	86.85	86.92	87.30
FT GOLD MN	174.7	174.3	173.7	190.2
FT MINES F	660.86	660.86	658.91	653.25
FT OIL	2005.9	2005.9	1988.7	1978.9
FT MLD DLR	145.23	145.32	145.22	141.17
FT MLD STG	128.62	128.04	127.93	123.81
FT MLD LOC	134.30	134.19	134.10	129.77

London Stock Market Report

UK STOCKS NEAR DAY'S LOWS IN DULL LATE TRADING

LONDON, MAY 8, REUTER - SHARE PRICES STOOD NEAR THE DAY'S LOWS IN LATE BUSINESS AFTER WALL STREET POSTED MODEST EARLY LOSSES. TRADING WAS DULL AND PRICES HELD TO A NARROW RANGE ON THE FIRST DAY OF A NEW ACCOUNT.

DEALERS SAID THE MARKET SHOWED RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF A LARGER THAN ANTICIPATED 1.6 PCT RISE IN U.K. APRIL MANUFACTURING INPUT PRICES, WHILE OUTPUT PRICES GAINED 0.5 PCT, GENERALLY IN LINE WITH FORECASTS.

BY 1445 GMT THE FTSE INDEX WAS 4.2 POINTS OFF AT 2,128.6 AFTER TOUCHING A LOW OF 2,127.0 EARLIER.

ONE TRADER SAID, "TODAY'S SHARE MARKET PERFORMANCE ISN'T THAT BAD TAKING ACCOUNT OF SOME UNINSPIRING RESULTS AND A NUMBER OF STOCKS TRADING EX-DIVIDEND. BUT I RECKON IT'LL NEED A CORRECTION OF AROUND 30 POINTS FOR US TO BUILD PROPERLY ON RECENT GAINS TO POST (1987 STOCK MARKET) CRASH HIGHS."

ENGLISH CHINA CLAYS WAS 27P DOWN AT 510 AFTER INTERIM RESULTS ROUGHLY IN LINE WITH FORECASTS, SHOWING PRETAX PROFIT RISING 10.7 PCT TO 66.3 MLN STG.

ECC SAID IT WAS CONFIDENT BUT WARNED THAT GROWTH WAS SLOWING ACROSS THE GROUP. IT ADDED THAT HIGH U.K. INTEREST RATES ARE HURTING THE HOUSEBUILDING SECTOR.

London Gold

LONDON, MAY 6. REUTER - GOLD BULLION ENDED A QUIET SESSION WITH PARED GAINS, FOLLOWING THE FORTUNES OF THE FLUCTUATING NEW YORK MARKET, DEALERS SAID.
GOLD CLOSED AT 377.00/377.80 DLRS AN OUNCE COMPARED WITH ITS AFTERNOON FIX OF 378.25 AND FRIDAY'S CLOSE OF 375.00/375.50 DLRS.
DEALERS SAID GOLD AT ONE POINT REACHED A HIGH IN LONDON OF AROUND 379.00/379.50 AS COMEX FIRMED UP ITS GAINS AS CURRENCY DOLLAR. HOWEVER, GOLD THEN RELINQUISHED ITS GAINS AS CURRENCY FACTORS EVENTUALLY PREVAILED. THE MOVE ALSO FILTERED TO THE MARKET NEARED THE 380 DLRS RESISTANCE LEVEL, ANALYSTS NOTED.

London Money Market

LONDON, MAY 8, REUTER - MONEY MARKET INTEREST RATES TRADED QUIETLY IN A SLEEPY MARKET, MOSTLY UNCHANGED SINCE THIS MORNING'S EARLY MARKDOWN, TRADERS SAID.

TRADING IN A DIRECTIONLESS MARKET, RATES SHOWED NO REACTION TO THIS MORNING'S MIXED BAG OF DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DATA.

MARKET PARTICIPANTS APPEARED SATISFIED WITH UNPRODUCED RETAIL SALES FOR MARCH AND WITH THE INCREASE IN APRIL PRODUCTION PRICES ON AN OUTPUT BASIS IN LINE WITH EXPECTATIONS AT 0.5 PCT.

THEY WERE WILLING TO IGNORE THAT PRICES PAID BY MANUFACTURERS FOR RAW MATERIALS AND ENERGY SURGED BY 1.6 PCT WHILE MARCH'S INCREASE WAS REVISED UPWARDS AT 1.8 PCT.

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DNK	FFR	
LR	1.6758/865	1.8964/69	6.4000/30	QPG
GTG	1.6740/50	3.1785/825	10.7255/370	NOON
NR	1.8949/9029		29.55/71	FIX
FR	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY		FIX
FR	1.6965/6975	89.31/41	26.47/50	NOON
FL	2.1415	112.73	33.395	FIX
CU	1.09715	0.654955	7.02777	CLSE
D	1.28756	0.768234	8.24553	CLSE
SDR	134.60/70	225.32/63		NOON
SDR RATE	5/5 DB9			
		OTHERS	04/05/1080	

Morgan Stanley Capital International Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
AUSTRIA	298.3	299.5	297.9	284.0
AUSTRIA	357.7	308.8	308.8	287.9
BELGIUM	457.0	457.0	457.0	260.2
CANADA	390.2	389.9	389.1	350.7
DEMARK	644.3	643.1	643.9	502.3
FRANCE	479.1	476.8	476.8	464.4
GERMANY	216.6	214.5	214.5	206.7
HONG KONG	2489.2	2450.8	2400.0	2271.2
FINLAND	129.9	130.7	130.5	128.3
ITALY	460.9	470.3	469.4	471.2
JAPAN	1537.7	1503.7	1503.7	1483.6
HOLLAND	303.8	303.6	303.6	296.8
NEW ZEAL	94.0	94.4	94.1	90.3
NOMAY	824.8	812.6	812.6	751.0
SPORE	750.3	751.1	767.7	694.7
SPAIN	251.5	250.9	250.5	245.1
SWEDEN	1245.7	1245.2	1245.2	1247.1
SWITZER	191.6	190.8	191.8	186.7
U K	644.9	641.5	636.7	632.9
U S A	282.4	282.9	283.3	270.9
WORLD	513.9	514.2	513.6	503.4
E A F E	970.6	970.5	968.2	959.2

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Arab Times Advertising Department 4816326/7.

Dow Jones Plus Indices

	LAST	CHANGE	HIGH	LOW
IND	2,363.82	-18.14	2,381.23	2,364.00
TRANS	1,115.94	-13.91	1,129.85	1,115.00
UTILS	191.80	-1.06	192.69	191.00
STOCKS	907.19	8.23	915.26	907.00
NYSE COMP	170.72	-1.62		
S-P COMPOSITE	304.80	-2.81		
NYSE INDX	206.12	-1.76		
AMEX INDEX	346.02	-0.82		
NASD	426.79	1.95		
NASD BANKING	503.01	+0.96		
NASD FIN'L	503.01			
NASD INDS	423.58	-2.14		
S-P 100 INDEX	284.28	-2.85		

Wall Street Statistics * Connect

NYSE HIGHEST VOLUME				AMEX HIGHEST VOLUME			
UPJOHN	31	1/8	+ 3/4	INTL BKINTE	5	5/8	+ 3/4
FRPT MCHOR	36	1/4	- 1/4	DIASONICS	2	15/16	+ 1/16
SERVICE ME	18	5/8	- 1	WANG LAB B	8	5/8	- 1/4
ATT	34		- 1/2	FRUIT LOOM	7		- 1/8
EXXON	42	1/4	UNCH	AMDAHL CP	18	5/8	- 3/8
AVON PROD	36	3/8	+ 1/4	TIE	1	3/8	- 1/8
108	34		- 5/8	ECHO BAY	13	1/2	- 1/8
GEN ELE	47	5/8	- 3/8	SOTHEBY'S	40	1/8	- 5/8
MOTOROLA	46	3/4	- 1/4	INTL TELEC	10	1/4	- 1/8
GULF ST UT	9	7/8	UNCH	VIACOM	54	1/4	+ 2 1/4
NYSE LARGEST PER CENT CHANGE				AMEX LARGEST PER CENT CHANGE			
FISHBACK C	21	1/8	+ 1 7/8	DUCUMRON	4		+ 7/8
FAIR IND	17	5/8	+ 1 1/2	INTL BKINTE	5	5/8	+ 3/4
UTD MRCNIT	5		+ 3/8	CENVILL DE	8	7/8	+ 1 1/8
TIDEWATER	8	3/8	- 1 1/2	PRO CARE	2	3/4	- 1/2
FRIEHAUF B	2	3/8	- 1/4	WESTAIR HO	8	1/4	- 1 1/8
NYSE VOLUME	66,530,360			AMEX VOLUME	4,867,830		
STOCKS UP	354			STOCKS UP	146		
STOCKS DOWN	949			STOCKS DOWN	302		
5-HAY NASDAQ VOLUME	156,066,200						
STOCKS UP 1074	851						

Wall Street Market D

NEW YORK, May 8, (Reuter): US share prices began to slide again after a brief mid-morning pause as concerns over the US economy gripped investors. Brokers said, Friday's losses and lower bond prices also weighed on stocks.

"The market has 'recessionitis'," said a trader. He said investors were concerned that signs inflation could creep higher would promote higher interest rates that would hurt the economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 18 at 2364. Declining shares led gaining stocks by about three-to-one. Trading was light.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY REUTERS FINANCIAL SERVICES

NSCSA to order four chemical tankers

LONDON, May 8, (KUNA): The Saudi Arabian National Shipping Company (NSCSA) is to order four chemical tankers in what could form part of a joint venture with one of the world's largest carriers, it was reported here on Friday.

The company hopes to capitalise on the petrochemical trade from the Middle East and has held talks with major chemical carriers aimed at reaching a "political pool," said the specialist newspaper Lloyd's List.

Lloyd's quoted NSCSA chief executive Mohammed Al Jarbou who said an agreement was expected in the next few months but would not disclose the likely partner.

The daily said the new vessels were in the 25,000 to 35,000 tonnes range, and that shipyards in West Germany, Spain, Yugoslavia, Japan and South Korea were among those understood to have been asked to tender.

It noted that NSCSA was already involved in petrochemical transportation through its two existing tankers, the UQBA Ibn Nafi and the Al Fathi, the second a joint venture vessel with United Arab Shipping. Lloyd's also reported that Al Jarbou had confirmed that NSCSA would be announcing profits for last year of \$654 million riyal (\$17.42 million), a major increase on 1987 profits of 12 million riyal.

Iraq to commission 10 docks in southern port

BAGHDAD, May 8, (OPECNA): Ten large docks built at a cost of \$250 million will be commissioned at the southern Iraqi port of Umm Qasr during the next two months.

According to officials at the Iraqi Ministry of Transport and Communications, the commissioning of these docks will bring the loading and unloading capacities of the Gulf port to well over four million tonnes a year.

They said in the first quarter of the year, more than 180 ships sailed from and to Iraqi Gulf ports with a wide range of import and export goods, including petroleum products, fertilisers, sulphur, cement and other commodities.

After the August 1988 ceasefire in the Gulf war, Iraq allocated about \$900 million for the development of its Gulf ports, involving the construction of 13 docks — one of them a floating ship repair facility.

Work is also in progress on deepening and widening navigational channels leading to the Gulf to facilitate the anchoring of heavy loading ships.

Earlier, Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Mohammed Hamzah said here that Iraqi teams had reached a depth of more than eight metres but needed to dig another three metres or more to make the channels tankerworthy.

He added that the country had eight giant excavators working night and day to deepen the channels linking the strategic Shatt Al Arab waterway to the Gulf, stressing that "our workers have dug out 2.40 million cu. metres of the beds ... I expect them to complete their plan to dig 42 million cu. metres by the beginning of next year."

The channels — Khor Abdallah and Khor Al Zubair — link the southern Iraqi ports of Umm Qasr and Al Zubair with the Gulf.

Cost of living rises 33.4pc

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, May 8, (AP): The cost of living rose 33.4 per cent in April, the economy ministry announced on Friday night in its regular monthly inflation report.

The increase was the highest since March 1976, when the cost of living rose by 38 per cent and the civilian government headed by former President Isabel Peron was overthrown by a military coup.

The April increase boosted inflation for the last 12 months to 460.6 per cent. The inflation rate for the first four months of 1989 was 86.2 per cent.

The April figure compared with an increase of 17 per cent recorded in March, 9.6 per cent in February and 8.9 per cent in January.

The government of President Raul Alfonsín last Monday announced a package of austerity measures, including a 45-day price freeze for most goods and services, a 20 per cent increase in public utility rates and a 25 per cent boost in gasoline prices in a new effort to slow inflation.

Honesty tests increasingly used to identify undesirable workers

NEW YORK, May 8, (AP): The interview went well, but before Alfonso Morris got his clerk's job at a Dallas convenience store, he had to spend an hour taking a test aimed at determining whether he's a liar, thief or substance abuser.

It wasn't the first time. In the past two years, Morris, 26, had been asked by three prospective employers to submit to a written grilling about whether he'd used drugs or stolen any money or merchandise.

His experience reflects a nation-wide quest to create a drug-free, theft-free workplace, which has increased employer use of honesty and integrity tests designed to identify potential problem workers.

"They told me they give the survey to everyone before they hire them, basically to screen you," Morris said of the Stop 'n Go chain, which hired him in March. "I didn't think too much about it — I know I'm a good person and should screen well."

But critics complain the tests amount to a written version of a lie-detector or polygraph exam, violate privacy, aren't scientific and encourage lazy hiring practices. Some contend the tests can be designed to detect political beliefs or union sympathies.

Honesty
Others fear honest applicants mistakenly will be denied jobs, although test creators warn against using their questions as the sole determinant of employment because the tests aren't foolproof.

Government and private estimates suggest that substance abuse — drugs or alcohol — cost about \$77 billion a year in absenteeism, decreased productivity, lower quality of work and increased costs of benefits, while employee theft accounts for estimated losses of \$40 billion a year.

Honesty tests range in cost from \$6 to 15 each, including an evaluation of the results. For identifying drug abusers, they are becoming an attractive alternative to urine tests, which can cost up to \$50 each, are often considered unreliable and face growing legal challenges.

A law that took effect in December barring most private employers from administering polygraph tests also gave written honesty tests a boost.

The first honesty or integrity tests were developed in the 1960s by a company now called Reid Psychological Systems, but their use has multiplied in the past few years. In 1986, an estimated 2.3 million honesty tests were administered; the number is expected to jump to 5.5 million by next year.

Drugs
The tests are surprisingly straightforward. They might ask whether the applicant has ever stolen anything from an employer, or how many times in the past month the applicant has used drugs.

William Rognas, a Kentucky Fried Chicken franchisee with five stores in Illinois, for the past two years has required applicants to take an honesty test. Results are starting.

Rognas said his food costs have dropped about four per cent because employees aren't stealing, and labour costs are down the same amount as efficiency improved.

"We hired one guy without the test and asked him to take it later. He failed, and we ended up firing him because he was stealing. It works," Rognas said.

The nation-wide crusade against drugs is considered a major catalyst pushing employers into the nebulous frontier of employee privacy.

"A lot of this stuff would not be possible were it not for ... the drug scare that exists," said Loren Siegel, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union in New York. "People are willing to sacrifice some very fundamental rights" of privacy.

With the federal government conceding the drug problem's awesome magnitude, some experts say a "policing function" has been shifted to business. Siegel said employee testing represents "the privatisation of law enforcement."

Tests
Who would admit to drug abuse or theft? Gregory Louis-Nont whose company develops and markets honesty tests, said he continually is surprised at how forthcoming applicants are about past transgressions.

Of 10,723 people applying for work at a national convenience store chain who took his test last year, 777 admitted having shoplifted a total of \$26,190 in merchandise. 902 said they think about shoplifting, and 290 admitted having stolen \$67,579 in merchandise from previous jobs.

Of 10,440 people tested for the same company, 1,142 admitted to overdrinking, 739 said they used cocaine and 37 said they sold amphetamines.

Questions are designed to prevent a person who used marijuana once five years ago from being pumped into the same "risk" category as one who sold cocaine last week, Louis-Nont said.

Experts say some people confess outright because it describes behaviour that has become normal for them. Others are likely to be tripped up by questions that probe attitudes toward stealing and taking drugs.

Employees have no recourse but to submit to testing, even though experts say court challenges to the tests are inevitable.

"If you don't take it, they won't hire you, and there's nothing you can do about it. That's the bottom line," Siegel said.

The vast majority of people don't object. Reid psychological statistics showed 92 per cent of test takers accepted the test while only three per cent resented it and the rest had no opinion.

New hardline stance

Taiwan bank cracks down on easy money

TAIPEI, Taiwan, May 8, (UPI): Taiwan's commercial banks recently engaged in a game of chicken with the Central Bank of China and lost. Now they are paying the consequences in the form of higher interest rates and tightened loan practices.

But the transition to doing business under a central bank determined to rein in credit and ease inflationary pressure will not be easy for either Taiwan's banks or the customers they serve.

The three provincial government-run banks, which claim a 30 per cent market share among commercial banks, finally buckled under Central Bank pressure in late April and raised interest rates on deposits and loans for the first time since the Central Bank raised reserve requirements on April 1 as part of its anti-inflation campaign.

The Hua Nan, Chang Hwa and first commercial banks hiked their prime rates from eight per cent to nine per cent annually and deposit rates from 0.25 per cent to 1.05 per cent, pushing them as high as 7.60 per cent for three-year time deposits.

The rate increases came on a day the banks had to square their previous 10 days required reserves with the Central Bank. Banks here must balance their daily required reserves with the Central Bank every 10th working day.

Loans
Despite the concession, the banks still were short but the Central Bank refused to extend short-term loans to them. Instead, it slapped a 15-per cent annual interest rate on their shortfall to punish them for lending activities that had expanded 70 per cent in the first quarter from the same period last year, according to official figures.

It was the second time the banks have been punished by the Central Bank. In the first deadline round, April 12, the three banks were forced to pay the equivalent of 7.4 million in interest on their reserve shortfall.

"They kept extending loans and they didn't raise rates because they were convinced the Central Bank wouldn't penalise them, but then it did," said Liu Hsueh-Hsiang, an associate researcher at the Chung Hwa Institute for Economic Research.

The Central Bank's new hardline stance is part of a wider monetary policy to curb inflation. A week ago, Taiwan watched its annual inflation rate soar to five per cent in March from 1.2 per cent in 1988.

Squeezing the money supply, which is growing at an annualised rate of 27 per cent, will also help rein in rampant speculation on the local stock

and real estate markets, two other inflation culprits, according to the bank.

Real estate in Taipei cost an average 70 per cent more last year than in 1987 but rose as much as five times in some areas, increasing operational costs for businesses. A stock speculation craze beginning last year has robbed industries of workers and raised labour costs.

Banks finding themselves stranded without capital maintain that no matter whether they raise their rates, it is impossible to compete with the high returns of the stock market.

Share prices may fluctuate up to five per cent daily on the local exchange, and they regularly fluctuate three per cent, according to Danny Chan, managing director at Fidelity Securities International Consulting Corp.

Deposits
Domestic banks, whose reserve requirements are larger due to their high level of deposits, also have been unable to liquidate, as 62 per cent of their capital is in loans and much of the remainder is in certificates of deposits and treasury bonds issued by the Central Bank.

Taiwan's 33 foreign banks, which have stringent deposit restrictions, do not face this

problem. But because they cannot depend on deposits for cash, they must borrow through the interbank system at rates as high as 10.5 per cent, according to one foreign bank president.

"The Central Bank measures are effective, but I don't like them. Liquidity is very tight, and it's very hard to service customers," he said.

Moves
But those who are likely to suffer the most from the Central Bank's credit-tightening moves are medium and small businesses.

According to a survey by the Economic Ministry's medium and small business administration, one-third of smaller enterprises have experienced financial difficulties, when banks either refused to accept their loan applications or reduced the promised amount.

"Smaller firms just don't have the bargaining power the large enterprises do. And higher interest rates will also have a large impact on them," the foreign bank president said.

Jasoun Huang, secretary-general of the National Association for Small and Medium Enterprises, said, "The Central Bank measures will inevitably affect smaller businesses."

Taiwan braces for US trade retaliation

TAIPEI, May 8, (Reuters): A string of record-breaking jumps by the Taiwan dollar against the US dollar seems unlikely to save the island from US trade retaliation.

Taiwan is bracing for what the China Times newspaper called the "Satanic 301 curse" — a reference to section 301 of an omnibus trade act under which Washington can slap penalties on a country's exports.

There are few signs that Taipei will escape punishment for alleged unfair trade practices despite two weeks of currency appreciation seen as a last-ditch effort to appease its largest trading partner.

Exports
The United States takes about 40 per cent of Taiwan's exports and Taipei is deeply worried at the prospect of being shut out of its markets.

The local dollar opened to at 25.78 and dealers said comments last week by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady that the currency had risen far enough would keep the exchange rate stable for several months.

Brady's comments halted a wave of US dollar dumping which had driven the Taiwan currency about six per cent higher since April 27 and showed the power which Washington wields over the Taiwan economy.

The dollar should stay for a while at the 25 to 26 level, said a dealer at a US bank.

Other dealers said they believed the central bank had reached agreement with Washington that a level of about 25.50 was acceptable in the near-term.

Trade consultations in Taipei last week ended with US officials still grumbling about high tariffs on US agricultural products, barriers to US financial institutions and lack of copyright protection for Hollywood movies.

Taipei's plan to cut its surplus with Washington by 10 per cent each year over the next four years received only a guarded welcome.

Plan
"The plan is not as ambitious as it could be," a US spokesman said. Taiwan was among 34 countries named by Washington for allegedly blocking US goods and services and US officials must decide by May 30 whether to include it on a final "blacklist" for possible retaliation.

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Jobless rate in China to jump

BEIJING, May 8, (AP): China's unemployment rate will nearly double this year as more job seekers scramble for a reduced number of jobs, an official daily newspaper said today.

The official unemployment rate will rise from 2 per cent last year to about 3.5 per cent in 1989, the China Daily said, quoting Xi Zhongxun of the State Commission for Restructuring the Economy.

Xi said there will be 10 million people looking for work this year, but only 5 million jobs guaranteed by the state. Most new job seekers are school graduates, demobilised servicemen, farmers looking for factory work and workers who have been laid off.

Jobs are particularly hard to find this year because the government, in an austerity programme to combat inflation and too-rapid economic growth, has cancelled or suspended thousands of construction projects and cut off credit for new investment.

Authority
Factory managers also have been given greater authority to hire and fire their own workers, and have been encouraged to pare work staffs to make their operations more efficient.

It has been estimated that China has 20 million to 30 million surplus workers out of a total urban work force of 135 million. The surplus workers are those who could be dismissed without affecting the output of their factory or office.

Chinese workers are still rarely fired, and get paid regardless of whether there is any work for them to do.

Xi said it will take time for Chinese to adapt themselves to the phenomenon of unemployment.

The actual number of unemployed people is thought to be far higher than government estimates because the official figures do not include non-urban labourers who have left the farm in search of jobs.

Reforms
Millions of people have given up farming to find work in rural enterprises during the past decade of economic reforms, while millions more have flocked into the cities to take jobs in the booming construction and service industries.

However, since the austerity programme was put into effect last fall, construction jobs have dried up and many rural industries have gone bankrupt because of lack of credit and materials.

Unemployed people from the countryside have become a major problem for urban authorities, and Xi said restrictions will be imposed on the hiring of farmers and the transfer of their names into urban registration books.

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Three miners on strike at Rudna copper mine in southwest Poland under a banner declaring 'Strike'. Strikers say 20,000 miners are on strike in four copper mines in the region. (Reuters wirephoto)

Strike at copper mines continues

'Talks are at an impasse'

WARSAW, May 8, (Reuters): Up to 20,000 strikers occupied four Polish copper mines for a third successive night to demand the communist government implement pay agreements with the Solidarity free trade union.

They say the strikes have halted almost all copper extraction in Poland, one of the world's biggest producers.

The strikers said last yesterday that Industry Minister Mieczyslaw Wilczek had rejected a request to talk to them and negotiations with mine officials were deadlocked.

Deal
"Talks are at an impasse. Mr Wilczek does not want to talk to us," a striker who declined to be identified told Reuters by telephone from the Rudna mine in southwest Poland.

"There's no change in the situation," said Marek Snyk, a striker and regional Solidarity activist.

The strikers stopped work on Friday over fears that the government was stalling in implementing pay rises after a deal with the Solidarity-led opposition during two months of reform talks.

Members of a 30-man strike committee representing the Rudna mine and the nearby Lubin, Polkowice and Sieroszowice pits, said they had been informed that Wilczek would talk only to representatives of the official Opz trade unions.

Strikers include members of the Opz and Solidarity but the union's leaders appear unwilling to back the stoppages.

Calm
Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has repeatedly called for workers to give the agreed reforms a chance by not striking — despite widespread discontent and soaring inflation.

Walesa again appealed to

workers for calm during an election rally yesterday but did not refer to the strikes.

"Remember we do not want fights. We want agreement and accord. We have to end fights and end quarrels," Walesa told about 5,000 people at an election rally in the city of Plock, north of Warsaw.

Miners said they had not wanted to strike but they could no longer hold back because they thought the government was trying to cheat them.

The strikers said talks broke down when they rejected a 30 per cent pay rise. They want a 50 per cent increase and higher basic wages so they no longer have to work the better-paid weekend shifts to supplement their earnings.

Hundreds of short protests have disrupted industry this year but have not derailed reforms. Strikes at three coal mines ended within hours last week.

Move to rescue economy
Poland is crippled by a \$39 billion foreign debt. Inflation was more than 70 per cent by the end of 1988 and the government expects a record budget deficit this year of more than a trillion zlotys (\$1.47 billion).

Payments
A finance ministry official told Reuters last week Poland had suspended principal payments to its Commercial Bank creditors and wanted to revise debt-scheduling agreements.

Delegates at the first day of the conference on Thursday attacked the government's economic policies, saying they had failed to fill empty shop shelves or curb soaring inflation — widely expected to reach 100 per cent this year.

The conference plans to launch the party's programme for parliamentary elections in June in which the opposition is competing for the first time since 1947.

The main issue is Argentina's

bettered economy. The austral, the country's national currency, has been devalued by about 80 per cent since February, igniting inflation that in April was projected at 35 per cent.

Peace
Workers' wages have not kept pace, business has been thrown into disarray, and many basic goods — medicines, milk, spare parts for industry — are in short supply or are selling at several times the price of two months ago.

Shelves are empty in pharmacies. Lines are long at foreign exchange houses. The central bank briefly ran out of paper

money. Doctors and teachers and mail carriers have gone on strike for higher pay.

"I was better off five years ago than I am now," said Gustavo Batistato, a 31-year-old repairman for the State Telephone Company. "I voted for Alfonsín. I won't vote for Angeloz."

Angeloz, a 57-year-old provincial governor, hasn't thrown in the towel. At rallies last week in cities across the country, he attracted large crowds. Aides predict 200,000 people will attend his closing rally in Buenos Aires tomorrow.

Menem, a 58-year-old provincial governor, recognises the same problems but proposes other solutions.

Angeloz could win, but his deficit is very big. If you ask me, it isn't very likely," said Pollster Manuel Mora y Arago. A survey he took two weeks ago gave the radical Civic Union candidate 29 per cent of the vote, with 34 per cent going to Menem.

But 21 per cent of the people he polled said they were undecided. Polls published April 30 in the capital's two biggest newspapers, Clarin and La Nacion, gave Menem a 10-point edge — 36 per cent to 26 per cent — with one in four voters undecided two weeks before the voting.

Vote set for May 14
The main issue is Argentina's

bettered economy. The austral, the country's national currency, has been devalued by about 80 per cent since February, igniting inflation that in April was projected at 35 per cent.

Peace
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INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

"Why did it happen? How did it happen? Only three months ago I was a different person. Why?" asks Aamir, the protagonist of Raakh. His eyes wear a vacant, empty look. There is pain in them, an unbearable pain of losing youth, innocence and youth. Imprisoned, he seeks freedom. But it was freedom that imprisoned him. Crime has become so commonplace that few take notice of such instances as gang rape, mugging, robbery and smuggling. Such instances are "news," statistics and things that happen to others. The attitude of many is that "they are terrible but better forgotten."

Etched
Aamir doesn't forget; he can't. The memory is etched on his mind: a terrible feeling of guilt, of incompetence and cowardice. He must hit back, not only for Neeta (Supriya Pathak) — the victim of gang rape — but for himself.

Writer-director Aditya Bhattacharya's Raakh (Ashes), ignoring victim Neeta's anguish, concentrates on Aamir's trauma, his guilt and his retribution.

pability are the springboard for revenge, which is not new to Hindi movies. Neither is rape. Bhattacharya's approach to the problem differs. Though the writer's sympathy lie with the victim's lover, Aamir, Bhattacharya focuses on simmering trouble, of decaying society and its impact on the young.

The protagonist hits back, not in a moment of weakness, but with deliberate knowledge. He must destroy; he must avenge; this is his nirvana. He reaches a point of no return, blaming himself for that fateful night when Neeta (Supriya Pathak) is gang-raped as Aamir (Aamir Khan) watches helplessly. Inspector Kapoor, who is present at the scene of crime, turns a blind eye. Aamir writes in pain as Neeta cries for help.

Aamir has fallen from grace and feels he has sinned; he must seek atonement; his pent up fury erupts like a volcano as the 21-year-old Aamir goes on a self-destructive spree.

Entangled
Aamir's agony is palpable. We sympathise with the loss of his innocence as he gets entangled in a web of intrigue, deceit and hopelessness. His pathetic plight evokes pity. We want him to turn back; he can't.

Herein lies the strength of Raakh.

Bhattacharya's deft handling and some fine camerawork give an aura of sadness to Aamir's quest for justice. That he metes it out himself is another matter but in the process, Bhattacharya speaks volumes about amoral corruption that has eroded the fabric of society.

Inspector Kapoor is the symbol of the decaying law, a man who prizes his job more than his conscience and aids and abets crime. Pankaj Kapoor, a fine actor who made his debut on Indian TV, plays Kapoor with such conviction that you almost feel sorry for him, and for others like him. He is an identifiable character, whose role has been defined with meticulous care. Kapoor is Aamir's catalyst. "We need each other," he tells Aamir.

In a moment of weakness, Aamir had given up his thirst for blood; he had found a hideaway. Kapoor, thirsting for revenge, takes a back seat as he prepares Aamir to get back at the people who destroyed them both.

Raakh looks at how people use people to realise their callous aims; the means to the end are irrelevant.

Some sequences in the movie leave indelible marks on the mind like when Aamir returns after the first kill and the later transformation when he begins to enjoy the taste of blood. Amir Khan, whose first film Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak catapulted him to fame, plays the youth in disarray with a subdued pathos and controlled passion, conveying anguish and despair.

Dramatic
Pankaj Kapoor excels as Inspector Kapoor, a rebel without a cause who is caught up in circumstances beyond his control. He breaks out from the constraints in one of the first dramatic sequences in Raakh. Raakh is certainly not escapist fare; it has no songs or dances and none of the spicy ingredients that make up a normal commercial film. Some viewers may not like to confront the hard hitting truths it portrays. But if you did decide to see it, it is time well-spent. At least, it makes you reflect on the society you live in. After all, everything must turn to dust, but should it be the way it is doing now? By "wilding?"

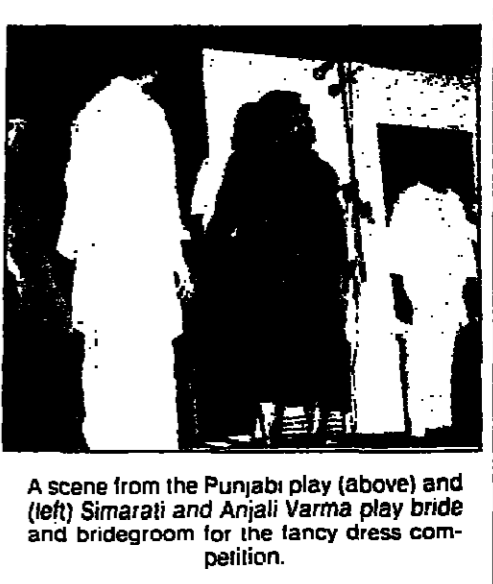
The above film is by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya, Tel: 471-2900; and at Falcon Video, Abbasiya.

Nehru Centenary and Baisakhi Utsav

THE Bharatiya Kala Sangam, a newly formed group of Punjabi Hindu Indians, recently held a cultural show at the Labour Union Hall to mark the Nehru Centenary. They also celebrated the Baisakhi Utsav.

Glimpses of folk culture from the Punjab were presented by members of the club, including dances. A fancy dress competition was also held: a one-act play was presented. Poetry was recited by Kidar Nath Kedar.

Indian councillor R.S. Mukhiya was the chief guest. The chairman of the Kala Sangam, S. K. Wadhawan, welcomed the guests. Wadhawan said their "sole objective was to develop cultural awareness among the community."



A scene from the Punjabi play (above) and (left) Simarati and Anjali Varma play bride and bridegroom for the fancy dress competition.

Goan singer to perform in Kuwait

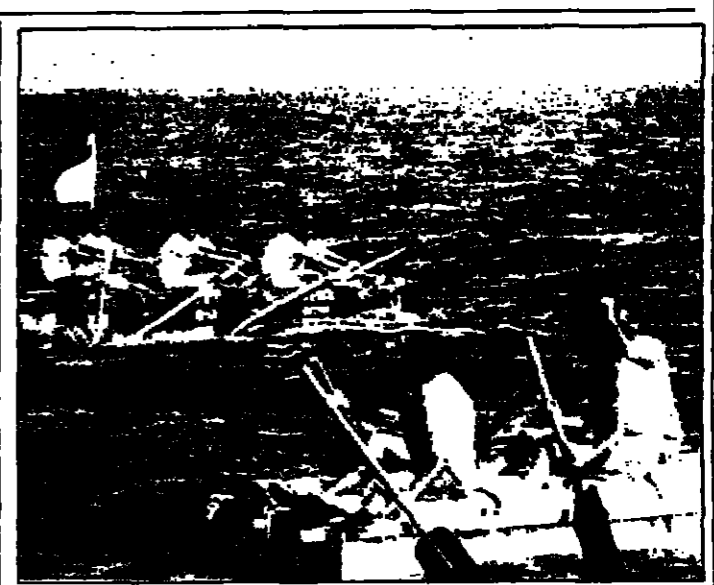
GOA'S most versatile singer Alexandre Rosario will perform in Kuwait this week.

He sings in English, Hindi, Portuguese, Konkani, Spanish and French.

Alexandre began his career in the 1960s while he was still at school with Beat Four. He performed with such popular singers like Remy and drummer Steve Sequeira. Soon, he joined Beat Four with the Whiz Kid Tony Nony. Later, he became a member of a leading band known as The Gay Cabaretos with Emiliano and Billy Boy.

In the late 1970s, he went solo, performing in India and abroad, and is best known for his resonant voice.

Alexandre's Kuwait trip is by courtesy of Kuwait Goans, who are also holding the May Queen contest on May 11. The May Queen will win an Air-India Kuwait-Goa-Kuwait ticket and two days hotel accommodation. She will also win several other prizes.



Kuwait third annual raft race

Under the patronage of HE Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah, the governor of Kuwait City, Messiah Beach Hotel is in the process of organising the Kuwait Third Annual Raft Race which will be held on Friday May 26, 1989 starting 9:00 am.

This year, the raft race is sponsored by the Kuwaiti Danish Dairy Co. (KDD) and promoted by Winston.

Rumour has it that there will be an entry from Dubai in this year's event, turning it into an international event.

You and your family are invited for a day of fun & entertainment. There will be lots of stalls, magician, live band, lots of food and attractive prizes on the entry tickets.

Don't forget — Friday May 26, 1989.



Scenes from Jwalamukhikal.

One-act play competition at Indian Arts Circle

THE Indian Arts Circle (IAC) one-act play competition opened on Thursday with the presentation of three Malayalam plays.

Kala presented "Jwalamukhikal", which deals with the overthrow of a ruler in a mythical kingdom. The play was directed by M.J. Isaac.

Madhu and friends staged "Thazhavarayude Thengal". Directed by N.V. Madhavan, it is the story of a doctor who wants to find a cure for rabies.

No matter what one does to suppress truth, it prevails in the end, according to the theme of

Phoenix, a play performed by the IAC Badminton Group. Directed by Shivkumar, it first dwells on how people suppress reality and how, in the end, truth triumphs.

IAC president M.M. Mathews welcomed the guests; Mrs R.S. Makhiya, wife of the Indian councillor, inaugurated the drama competition.

The competition ended on Sunday. Twelve Indian groups took part and performed plays in seven Indian languages. The winners will be announced later this month.

WHAT'S ON

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon, 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Bangladesh Art Show
MAY 12-27: Bangladeshi artist Monirul Islam will show 45 paintings at the Kuwait National Museum. Islam's paintings revolve around the life of Bangladeshis. Landscapes are also on show. The exhibition will be open from 8:30 am to 12:30 noon and 4 to 7:30 pm. It has been organised by the Bangladesh Association.

MUSIC

Piano Recital
MAY 9: Well-known pianist Klaus Zöll will give a recital at the Sheraton Hotel's Riccardo Restaurant at 5 pm, followed by a cocktail reception. For reservations call the hotel, ext. 104/107/109.

Geet and Gazals
MAY 19: A musical programme "Bhoolay Bhaiy Geet Ghazals" is to take place at Sharq auditorium. They are also on the lookout for singers to participate in this programme. Those interested may contact: Anwar H. Abdulla — 3989111 ext. 6811; 8 am - 3 pm.

SOCIAL

May Queen
MAY 11: Kuwait Goans will hold a May Queen function at Messiah Beach Hotel with Top Ranks and Next of Kin in attendance. The cream of the evening will be provided by Alexander Rosario, the singing sensation from Goa. For details contact 2413348/4881387.

India Day
MAY 11-12: Various groups and organisations of Indians living in Kuwait have joined to project cultural evenings and entertainments apart from

exhibiting the local materials of the regions and to show live demonstrations like Kolam (Tamil Nadu) and others. The India Day Sea Cruise/Food of special nature of different sectors of India will also be available. For further details contact 5331456, 4898891, 2644863, 5678762 or 4881387.

Remo's Show
MAY 11: The Expatriates Club will hold a dinner-musical at the SAS Hotel. Remo, India's pop-star will be the star performer and Expatriate Queen will be crowned. City Limits and Perfect Strangers in attendance. For details call Tony 2415439; Wilson — 3918905 (office hours); Val — 5614506 after 2 pm.

German-speaking Cultural Association
MAY 14, 10 am: Due to the Eid holiday, the next coffee morning for the German-speaking ladies will be held on Sunday at the Holiday Inn Hotel. All are welcome.

Danish Coffee Morning
MAY 14: Daniella invites all Danish ladies for coffee morning at the Dana Restaurant, May 14, 9:30 am. For reservations call Ingrid — 3713670; Marianne — 3720182 ext. 29.

Musical evening
MAY 17 (8:30 pm): The Phil Thomas Sextet and Karl and Christine Anderson with their band present an evening of British and American jazz, rock and pop music at the Holiday Inn. For reservations contact: 5629452/4834938/5387998.

Ex-The get-together
MAY 18: Roorkee University Alumni Association will have a family get-together. For details contact tele. 2551305 or 5631325.

Casuals Cricket Club
MAY 18: 8 pm, Messiah Beach Hotel. Annual dinner with special guest speaker Brian Close CBE, former captain of England and Yorkshire. Courtesy of British Airways. Live music. For tickets and information call Simon Clements (53333248) or Val Tudball (5327159).

Konkani drama
MAY 18-19: Indian Arts Circle, Funaites. MAR Productions presents Konkani drama "Noshibacho Diva Paloulo," directed by Prem Kumar. Gate passes available at Raja Stores. Tel. 2412970.

Kuwait Caledonians
MAY 18: Messiah Beach Hotel. The Caledonians will hold a "celebration" (gathering) with entertainment by John Carmichael and others. Tel: 5335082; 3727690 ext. 253.

Summer Bazaar
MAY 19: 2:00 pm, St Pauls Ahmadi, grand summer Bazaar at the new British Consulate in the British Embassy grounds, sale of handicrafts, paperbacks, preserves good as new, plants, bottle stall, white elephant, numerous fun side shows etc. Plus prize draw for British Airways round trip ticket Kuwait-London, Delhi, Madras or Karachi.

Arabian Nights
MAY 19th, 'Arabian Nights' evening at the Jawahar Night-club, Messiah Beach Hotel. Dress: Middle-Eastern of past or present. 20 costume prizes. Tel.: 4847461, 2418017, 4848843 ext. 4515, or leave message on 2614201.

ACT play
MAY 16-18: ACT presents a play by Raymond Briggs, "When the Wind Blows" at the Mousetrap Theatre in Jabriya at 8 pm both days. For reservations call: 5620352, 4-8 pm.

Jukebox 5
MAY 23-25: The Sounds Great production of Jukebox 5, will be presented at the Salmiya Cinema at 8 pm and also at 5 pm on May 25. For reservations ring 5740256/7 (mornings and 4 to 7 pm) or 5718143 or 5731782. Tickets will be on sale at Salmiya Cinema Box Office from May 14.

Get-together
JUNE 16: The Go-Go Club will be having a get-together at the Ramada Al-Salem Hotel from 11 am onwards with Stepping Stone and Symphony in attendance. For details contact Raju 2412970.

HOTELS

German Week
MAY 23, Tuesday: Opening reception for anniversary, exhibition and German Week given by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany at 7:00 pm at the Regency Palace hotel ballroom "Sheikha".

MAY 24, Wednesday: German Gala Night with German food buffet, musicians and other entertainments, ballroom "Sheikha" at 8:00 pm. Exhibition hours are from 9:30 am until 1:00 pm and from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

MAY 26, Friday: International Children's Day from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the ballroom "Sheikha" of the Conference Centre Building. Exhibition hours are from 9:30 am to 9:00 pm.

MAY 27, Saturday: Siemens — 30 years in Kuwait. Reception at 7:30 pm in the ballroom "Sheikha" of the Conference Centre Building. Exhibition hours are from 9:30 am to 1:00

SPORTS

Keep fit classes
MONDAYS (6 to 7 pm) separate ladies and mens fit classes with Steve and Chris Hill at the Holiday Inn.

Saturdays and Wednesdays (5 to 6 pm) ladies aerobics and Saturdays (6 to 7 pm) mixed aerobics, with Touvi Pakasalo. Saturdays and Tuesdays Yoga (7 to 8 pm).

Sundays squash handicap tournament, all standards welcome.

Pls contact the recreation manager tel. No. 4742000 ext. 6788 or 6700.

Swimming Classes
MAY 24: Swimming classes, total 8 lessons — every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at the Kuwait International Hotel. Details at ext. 8050. May 9-June 12: Tennis clinic with a choice of 3 different schedules. Details at ext. 8050 with Antony Kingma.

Tennis Cup
MAY 18-24: The first Tennis Nation's Fund Cup will be held on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Federal Republic of Germany. Twenty-four teams are expected to participate in the tournament, due to be held at the Regency Palace Hotel. Each team should consist of three players, including one female, of the same nationality. For registration, teams must submit names and passport copies of team members to be Fitness Centre, Regency Palace Hotel. Fees: KD 18 per team. Public draw on May 16. For queries call the German Week Office: Tel: 5728000 ext. 7204.

Swimming and Keep Fit
SWIMMING lessons have commenced at the Holiday Inn which is available for non-members. Monday (6 to 7 pm) separate ladies and mens fit classes with Steve and Chris Hill.

Saturdays and Wednesdays (5 to 6 pm) ladies aerobics and Saturdays (6 to 7 pm) mixed aerobics, with Touvi Pakasalo. Saturdays and Tuesdays Yoga (7 to 8 pm).

Bowling alley available for company tournaments. Sundays squash handicap tournament, all standards welcome.

Tennis coaching available for non-members and additional facilities available under the supervision of selective professionals: loss of weight, body building, massage (steam - oil - and cream) for ladies and men.

Please contact the recreation department tel. 4742000 ext. 6788 or 6700.

Radio Programmes

IBC World Services

0000 Newstalk
30 Megamix
0100 News Summary followed by
0200 News
25 Financial News
30 Short Story
45 Europe's World
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Network UK
30 Sports International
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 John Peel
0400 Newstalk
30 My Early Years
45 New Ideas
55 Book Choice
0500 World News
09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary
30 Financial News (ex 2nd and 30th)
45 Words of Faith
45 The World Today
0600 Newstalk
30 Voices (ex 2nd and 9th Ackerly Away)
0700 World News
09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary
30 Europe's World
45 Network UK
0800 World News
09 Words of Faith
15 Tech Talk
30 Sing Your Own Popcorn
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The World Today
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 The Baroque Concerto (ex 2nd A Chopin Collection)
1000 News Summary followed by Discovery
30 Sports International
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Waveguide
25 Book Choice
30 Megamix
1200 Newstalk
15 Multitrack 1: Top 20
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary
30 Network UK
45 Globetrotter's Guide to Popular Music (ex 2nd and 9th Sing Gospel)

FM Services

1000 Songs and Music
1200 Arabic Music
1300 Easy Listening
1330 News on FM Service
1340 Easy Listening
1400 Classical Music
1600 Easy Listening
1700 Italian Hour
1800 Pops
1900 Helter Skelter
2130 News
2200 Indian Classical Hour
2300 Easy Listening
2400 Instrumental Listening
0200 Closeouts

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.10 Good Morning
9.15 Cartoons
9.45 The World via Satellite
10.00 Yaseen Wa Bahiya: Arabic serial, starring Afaf Shuaib, Ali Al Hajar, Zozo Nabil and Georg Sidhom
10.45 News summary and varieties
11.00 Al Aswar: local serial, (Part 1), starring Hayat Al Fahad, Ayesha Ibrahim, Asmahan Tawfeeq, Ali Al Mufidi
12.00 Variety programme with guest Majeda Al Roumi.

1.00 News Summary

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 The World via Satellite
4.45 Sherlock Holmes: Cartoon serial
5.15 Tum Tac and Children: Cartoon serial
5.30 Nahno Asdiq'aq
5.45 Qanadeel Shabiya: historical serial
6.35 Varieties
7.25 You and Your Health
7.45 Varieties
8.00 Cultural Film
8.30 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Layali Al Hilmiya: Arabic serial (Part 2), starring Yahya Al Fakhrani, Safiya Al Omari, Hassan Yusuf, and Mamdouth
10.45 Min Al Alif Illa Al Ya': variety programme, presented by Tariq Habib, guest Mustafa Mahmood
11.45 News Summary
12.00 The World via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening Announcement and Holy Quran



A scene from 'Captain Power' on KTV 2 at 6:30 pm today.

6.10 The Pink Panther: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Captain Power. Eps. 5. Power, Pilot and Scout try to unravel the mystery surrounding the child, who seems to leave sickness wherever he goes...
7.00 Brazil: "The Price of Progress." For the first time after 21 years of military rule a civilian president is elected in Brazil. A look at progress in Brazil and the price of such progress?
8.00 News in English
8.30 The Fourth Arm. The team is formed and training starts for overcoming any obstacle that they may encounter while carrying out mission...
9.30 Mutual of Omaha.

"Marsh Spring." A look at immigrant birds in the marshes of Utah during spring season.
10.00 Everything is Relative. Julian, a young divorced man living with his younger brother under the guardianship of their mother... But his brother warns him against such attempts...
10.30 Midnight Caller
11.30 News in Brief
11.45 Magazine d'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

CINEMA TODAY

Andalus
Iron Angle
Hansa
Just A Damned Soldier
Drive-in
Arabic film
Firdous
Clerk
Fahadhel Open-air
Raste Pyar Ke
Fahadhel
Overboard
Jabra
Nai Bichar
Grassada
Kudumba Purnam
Salsabikhat
Nuts

Salmiya
(Theatre reserved for some programmes)
Al Jleeb
Agoom Pani
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

PRAYERS

Fejr	3.32 am
Zuhr	11.44
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.29
Isha	7.54

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Qahera Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St
Al Sharqiya Pharmacy
Al Hilal St
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Naser Pharmacy
Hawalli, Tunis St
Salmiya and Rumathiya
Sahara Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St
Fahadhel and Ahmadi
Al Badiya Pharmacy
Fahadhel, Dabbous St
Khaitan
Al Wehda Pharmacy
Main St
Jabra
Al Zabra Pharmacy
The New Commercial Souk

Lifting the veil on Harrod's owner Al Fayed

The last Pharaoh?

By Jean Rook

MOHAMMED Al Fayed claims to be the last Pharaoh. On papyrus, at any rate, he owns Harrods and the Ritz hotel in Paris. And that's a crisp £750 million gone before breakfast.

Al Fayed, who makes money fly thicker and faster than desert sand, assures his jealous rivals that his multi-billions are piled in pyramids and that — compared with his treasure — Tutankhamen looks bankrupt.

His rivals snipe back that the Egyptian tycoon, asked for living proof of his wealth, claims up like a mummy and that, some day, someone will unwrap his bandages and expose something nasty.

Certainly, where his cash flow springs from nobody knows. Trying to pry the information out of Al Fayed is like having a conversation with the Sphinx.

When I chipped away at this mythically wealthy man, who seems to be making an overnight take-over bid for Europe, all I could back from the stony silence was: "When I buy something, I pay cash for it — and nobody has the right to ask me how I made it."

"How would you feel if I asked you where you got the money to buy a £100,000 diamond from Harrods?"

Flattered. The chill was as clammy as the Pyramid of Cheops until he finally opened up with a roaring laugh. "I understand all the curiosity, of course I do. Who is this Egyptian who bought Harrods?"

More intriguing than how Al Fayed bought Harrods is why? And just how does it feel to sit on top of the Top People's store, outlined in its 11,000 light bulbs, and rejoice that all 26 acres of the world's swankiest shop are yours?

"To me, Harrods is history, a place of great theatre — I can walk round for three hours a day just thinking of the glamorous people who've shopped here, the generations who've been through it, the stories it could tell."

"Only the other day we unearthed a blocked-up 1930 staircase — think who could have



Egyptian tycoon Mohammed Al Fayed, the most glamorous shopowner in the world.

walked down it — it's beautiful. I shall restore it just as it is.

"For me, the greatest thrill is to buy a piece of history and bring it back to life."

But at a price which would pauperise lesser men. On Harrods alone he has spent £9 million on marble, £6.5 million on carpets, £23,000 for each hand-drafted chandelier in the world-famous Food Hall and £102.7 million burned up on electrical and structural improvements which a shopper's eye won't even notice.

And when Al Fayed bought it in 1985, Harrods was in fair nick. Not so the Ritz hotel, in Paris' Place Vendôme, which was crumbling into a gilded ghost town, haunted by greats like Ernest Hemingway, who permanently propped up the bar now named after him, and echoing with Rudolph Valentino's tango steps on the worn-out ballroom floor.

"The Ritz was in a terrible state. It has taken me seven years and £100 million to put it right,"

Al Fayed said as casually as other men mention they've repaired the spare room.

"When I was young man, 30 years ago I lived for a time in that beautiful square, and the Ritz became my dream, something that stuck with me for the rest of my life."

"It's the most glamorous hotel in the world, so when it came on the market, I thought how wonderful to carry out my young dream of restoring it to its old splendour, but a hundred times better."

I asked the last of the biggest spenders what's next on his shopping list. Buckingham Palace? The Taj Mahal?

"Nothing at the moment — at my age it's time I settled down with my wife and children to enjoy what I've got," he beamed.

In only 55 years, you wonder how he's packed in two wives, and five children, from two to 31, along with everything else. Is it true that like royalty, his constantly guarded family never travels in one plane?

"No, we go everywhere together, and if the plane goes, we'll all go together, too," said the man of destiny who believes it's all written in the desert stars.

It's all destiny, plus the hard work to make it come true. A head for business is as much God's gift as a talent for painting, music, or becoming a star like Rod Stewart, just because he refused to believe he was destined to be a grave digger.

"You judge things, you discuss them with God, and then you work to get where you are," said the modern-day Midas.

Once there most fabulous wealthy men tend not to throw it about. Al Fayed, who bought a Scottish castle over lunch, hurled it around, tossing what's left to good causes.

"You can't take it with you," said the only Pharaoh who won't attempt it. "The only real wealth is health and enjoying yourself. I'm not Tutankhamen. Before I go I shall give it all away. I implicitly believe in re-incarnation — the good you do and the good you leave behind in this life is what counts for you in the next."

"If I woke up tomorrow on a bench in Hyde Park with a piece of bread, I'd be happy enough. Because I know I could go out and make it all again."

Movie mogul Steven Spielberg faces a massive payoff

The £58 million extravaganza divorce

By John Hiscock

EVEN in Hollywood, where superlatives are a part of everyday conversation, it is a colossal extravaganza, a multi-million dollar mega-divorce starring the town's wealthiest film maker and an Oscar-nominated actress.

For Steven Spielberg, it is a production he would rather not have his name attached to. Under the terms of his divorce settlement he is reporting to be paying his wife, Amy Irving, £58 million. It is a settlement that far exceeds the previous highest divorce payments in Hollywood, the £20 million paid by singer Wayne Newton, and talk show host Johnny Carson's much publicised settlement of £18 million.

Yet, under California's divorce law, which divides property equally between husband and wife, it is not excessive, amounting to considerably less than the £68 million the reclusive director has already earned from the

film E.T., just one of the string of huge box-office successes he has put his Midas touch upon.

Spielberg, at 41 acknowledged to be the world's most successful film maker, says of himself: "I'm a mini-mogul. I run a mini-studio and we make mini-movies and we hope to make maxi-profits."

That has certainly been true of almost everything he has touched so far. He has directed — and had a share of the profits in — four of the top 10 most successful films in cinema history, E.T., Jaws, Raiders of the Lost Ark and Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. His films have so far brought in an estimated £900 million, and the money is still rolling in.

E.T., the top-grossing film of all time, earned Spielberg £23 million from his share of the profits and from the licensing of E.T. related products and toys. He raked in another £45 million from video-cassette sales by negotiating an

unprecedented £3 royalty from each of the £11.75 cassettes sold. The E.T. video went on to sell 15 million copies — more than twice the seven million sold of Walt Disney's Cinderella, the previous most popular film on video-cassette.

Despite his wealth, Spielberg has an unostentatious lifestyle by Hollywood standards. Until their separation he, Amy Irving and their four-year-old son, Max, lived in Spielberg's hilltop home in the Bel-Air area of Los Angeles. Part stage set and part suburban palace, it features wooden beams, skylights, stained glass, Navajo weavings and baskets, Norman Rockwell pictures and pink boulders at the corners of white stucco walls. The original Rosebud sledge from Citizen Kane, which he bought at an auction for \$30,000, hangs in pride of place above the fireplace.

He also has an apartment in New York's Trump Tower,



Splitting up: Steven Spielberg and Amy Irving

but most of his working days are spent at his office complex-cum-compound at Universal Studios, which the grateful studio built for him at a cost of £2 million to thank him for making Jaws and E.T. for them.

Hiscock's suite, which he turned down as "sacreligious" so they built him one. As Sidney Sheinberg president of MCA, parent company of Universal, says: "There are very few things Steven could ask of us that he would not get. There is no-one we are more anxious to please."

The studio originally offered him the late Alfred

"Courtesy is in, abrasiveness is out"

London 'bobby' sprucing up image

By Ralph Boulton

THE London 'bobby' is polishing up his tarnished image as he struggles to keep a pace ahead of the capital's flourishing criminal underworld. Romanticism may still reveal in the image of blue-caped heroes chasing villains through the swirling fogs of Victorian London. But a recent report showed the reality of the 27,000-strong metropolitan police is less glamorous.

The modern policeman, it says, languishes in shabby premises. Morale is low, time is wasted in petty internal rivalries and, worse still, some officers are aggressive and "too free with their language" in dealing with the public.

The 'Met' is the largest of 44 regional police forces. Its problems are shared by others throughout Britain.

A poll by the Mori organisation shows a dramatic fall in police popularity in Britain. Only 58 per cent of people were satisfied with the force in 1989, compared with 75 per cent in 1981.

Now the 'Met' has launched a campaign to spruce up its image and right the wrongs brought out in the report it commissioned last year from the Wolf Olins corporate 'image-makers'.

"Courtesy is in, abrasiveness is out," Met commissioner Sir Peter Imbert said. Stations would be spruced up and organisation improved to cope with the increasing sophistication of crime.

Assistant commissioner John Smith said in an interview that changing public attitudes to the police had made life more difficult for the man on the beat.

"People are more educated now. There was a time when they did

what they were told by a policeman. Nowadays they are more likely to question him and argue with him," Smith said.

The frustrations are echoed in the Wolf Olins report. "Police ... need to feel wanted, admired, cared for, but they are, as they see it, sometimes misunderstood, vilified, even, from time to time, physically and verbally abused," it said.

Between 1986 and 1987 the number of policemen injured on duty throughout Britain rose a third to 17,000. Yet the British police remain the only major national force not routinely armed.

Metropolitan police armories, equipped with 1,600 firearms, are smaller than they were in 1922, despite the greater use of guns by criminals. Only the diplomatic protection unit and bodyguards for politicians and royalty regularly carry arms.

In New York, by contrast, all 27,000 officers carry handguns and police hold hundreds of rifles in reserve.

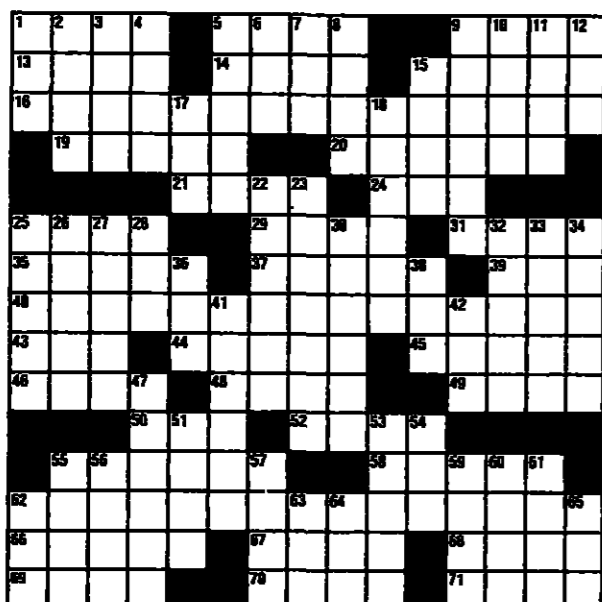
Violence has spread from the major cities to once-peaceful rural areas where weekend clashes between police and drunken youths have become more common.

Smith feels the Met has changed more in the last 10 years than at any time since it was founded in 1829 by Sir Robert Peel. The nickname 'bobby' is based on the diminutive of Robert.

"So far, we've developed by a process of chance reactions to the growing complexity of crime. What we now need is a clear definition of our role," he said.

One product of that chance process was a special unit set up to deal with Britain's biggest-ever robbery of \$47 million worth of gold and diamonds, from the Brinks Mat Security Service five years ago.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Siamese coin
 - 5 Merchandise
 - 9 Mineral
 - 13 Love, in Madrid
 - 14 Muse of history
 - 15 Turner namesakes
 - 16 Reliable person
 - 19 Situation
 - 20 Shakespeare opus
 - 21 Integrate
 - 24 — the line
 - 25 Angel topper
 - 29 Ago
 - 31 Bridge
 - 35 Unaccompanied
 - 37 Eyes, in a way
 - 39 Before
 - 40 McQueen-Newman hit, with "The"
 - 43 "Evita" role
 - 44 Acute or obtuse
 - 45 Containers
 - 46 Heavenly instrument
 - 48 Charges
 - 49 Get up
 - 50 Liquid gold
 - 52 Come to a standstill
 - 55 Pool worker, for short
 - 58 Unites
 - 62 Scene of noise and confusion
 - 66 Study
 - 67 Solitary
 - 68 Observe
 - 69 A Grant
 - 70 Letter opener
 - 71 Flying insect
- DOWN**
- 1 Face a pitcher
 - 2 Book of the Bible
 - 3 Gordie of hockey
 - 4 Wasto

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SLAW EASES LAIPP
DOUR SHALE OLEO
ANTI SATIN TARE
KIOSK BYZANTIUM
TIO RATIO
SCALLOP BOP TSP
EISENHOWER MOPE
ADITS CAT AARON
TEDS WASHINGTON
ORE FAT SCENERY
SEDER ETO
CONCEALED SLATE
EVOE BLARE ISAR
TORN LAGER ATILI
ARIAT ENTER SALLA

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ QJ4 ♥ AKQJ4 ♦ J5 ♣ A73
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—With this much strength opposite a one-over-one response, you would have jumped to two no trump to describe a balanced hand too strong for a one no trump opening bid. Since partner made a two-over-one response, jump to three no trump to show the same type of hand.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AKJ65 ♥ AJ ♦ J76 ♣ 742
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—With an opening bid facing an opening bid, you have the values for game. And you know your side has an eight-card fit—on this sequence partner must have a six-card heart suit. Therefore, your support is more than adequate. Jump to four hearts.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 83 ♥ KQJ7 ♦ AQ62 ♣ AJ2
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Dbl Pass 2 ♥ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—You have a pretty good hand, but there is no need to get carried away. Bear in mind that you have forced partner to bid, and he might have done so on a yarrowburgh. The most you can do is invite game by raising to three hearts—if partner has a smattering of points, he will go on to game.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KJ ♥ Q10 ♦ Q9873 ♣ J1082
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—Partner is showing a 5-4-2-2 distribution and some 16-18 points. Not only are you maximum for your first response, but your honors in

partner's suits must be upgraded. Anything other than a bid of three no trump should be treated with contempt.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q962 ♥ KJ8 ♦ AK1085 ♣ 5
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass
3 ♥ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—For his jump shift, partner can hardly have less than A-K and A-Q in his two suits. Therefore, it's simply a matter of whether partner has the ace of clubs as well. Bid four no trump to find out. (If your partner habitually jump shifts with bad suits, you have our sympathy.)

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ KQ73 ♥ KJ65 ♦ A7 ♣ KJ9
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—Partner's two-club bid was Stayman, searching for a possible 4-4 fit. Since his bid of three no trump denies four spades, he must hold four cards in hearts. Correct to four hearts.



"My new secretary, dear? Oh, at least forty, maybe forty-two!"



"That's it! We're going on a diet!"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart

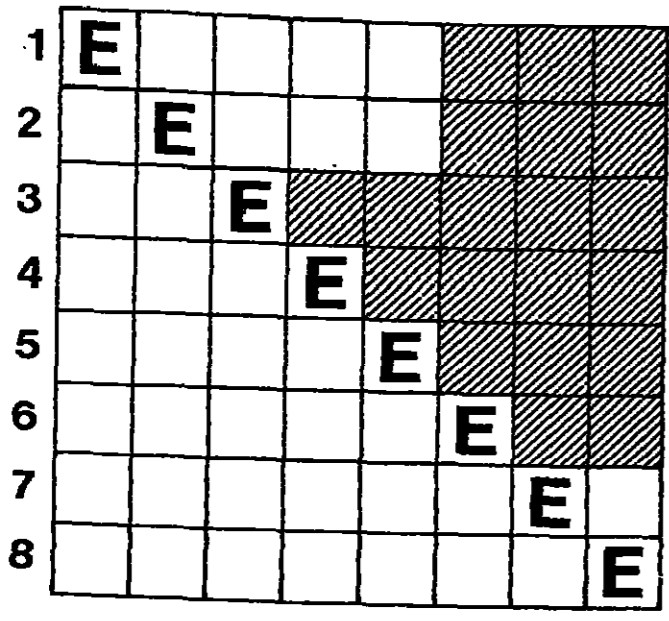


YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
You would be wrong to pretend to know what you do not. You will not have time for everything so deal first with what you consider most important. Take the best possible care of your health. Be sensible.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
Leave as little as possible for another day. If you make a promise then be sure to keep it. What seemed like a good idea will turn out not to be. Be reliable.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
Avoid doing more than one thing at a time. Do not try to impose upon others what you know is your responsibility. Do not be too strict with children. Be hopeful.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
You will be in a better state of mind and this will help you to deal with a marital problem. You should not take on any more commitments if you can avoid it right now. Do not make changes just for the sake of change. Be generous.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**
The prospects are good only you must not do anything on impulse. You should not allow work to wreck your personal life. Try to have a good laugh at yourself. Be cordial.
- Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**
There will be some small tension with those close to you but with a little goodwill you will be able to overcome them. Try to make certain allowances; do not expect too much. Make sure you do not neglect a small infection.
- Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)**
Something you had guessed might happen will, but it will not be as bad as you had feared. You should do all you can to avoid talking on any further commitments just now. Do not exaggerate the importance of some small setback.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
Today you will be better able to do what you had set out to do. A temptation to eat or drink more than you know you should must be resisted. Do not trust to luck or expect something for nothing. Be amenable.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
You will feel rather more sure of yourself. However, this is still no time to take any unnecessary chances, and your luck is not in. Make sure you do not lose sight of your objectives. Be magnanimous.
- Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)**
You should have just a little more faith in yourself. You will tire rather more easily and should not allow yourself to be distracted. Make sure you get plenty of fresh air and some none too strenuous exercise. Be moderate.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**
A friend is waiting for a phone call from you, obliging him. You will be able to take the initiative but make sure your do not lose sight of your objectives. Your lucky numbers are 24 and 40.
- Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**
Now is a good time to make a few changes but think about them carefully first. Make sure you do not do anything that might be in breach of contract or in any way against the law.

How many of these E number-words can you find? Here are the clues.

- _____ sevens are 56
- The _____ wonders of the world
- One more than zero!
- Three threes
- Three of this give number 4
- A baker's dozen less one
- Number of cards in a suit
- Number of cards in a pack - less one



108 Letter Change

Alter one letter only in each word and so form a sensible phrase in each example.

- ILL TOE BEAR SOUND
- HONEY FOX ODD ROSE
- FATTER ADD BOTHER
- GREEN MEATS GREET
- FREAK THY SAD NEWT
- CAST BUN GOT LEASH
- WATCH AT BATCH MAN
- LOUGH END GROG MAT
- LET IN WITS TIB COB
- MY BITS ANY STARES
- RATIONAL POTTERY
- CORNET TOE MARKER

109 Niners

Put letters in place of the crosses to form 9-letter words in which no two letters are the same. All the words begin with the same letter.

- x U x L x C x T x
- x E x U x T x R x
- x I x L x M x C x
- x R x N x A x L x
- x O x C x S x E x
- x O x E x A x L x
- x A x G x R x U x
- x E x L x T x O x
- x I x L x C x T x
- x I x E x B x R x
- x A x E x P x R x
- x I x C x V x R x

Congratulations



Best wishes to Shifa M. Ali, recently home from hospital and recuperating from illness. Get well soon from family and friends.

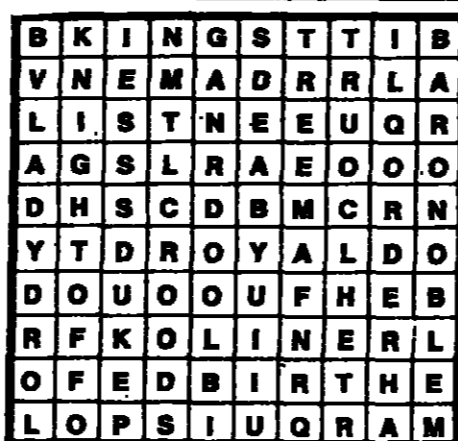
NOBILITY

BARON
BIRTH
BLOOD
BLUE BOOK

COURT
DAME
DUKE
EARL
FAME
KINGS
KNIGHT

LADY
LINE
LIST
LORD

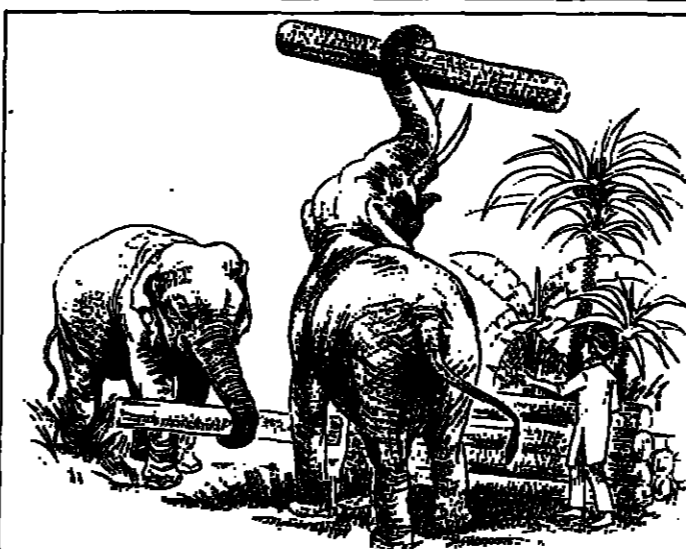
MARQUIS
NOBLE
ORDER
QUEEN
ROOD
ROYAL
TOFF
THREE
VISCOUNT



Clue: Church official (6 letters)



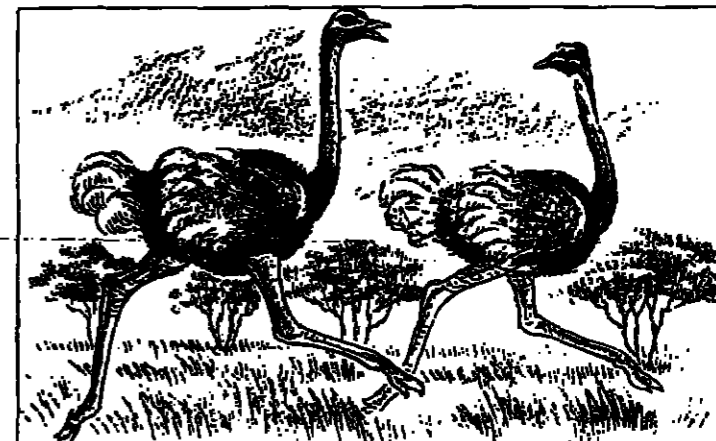
An eight-day-old Florida red wolf puppy is given a dose of oral antibiotic by a caretaker for a slight infection at the Tallahassee Florida Junior museum. Three pups were born bringing the number of surviving red wolves to 86 in the USA.



The elephant's trunk is an amazing organ. It is an extension of the nose and upper lip and serves the elephant as hand, arm, nose, and lips all in one!
Fawad Mustafa
Pakistani School
Class 7

Ostriches

THE ostrich is the fastest running bird in the world. It can go as fast as 50 miles an hour and is able to maintain this speed for over half a mile.
The ostrich is a greedy eater. It eats plants, berries and seeds, however, to help digest the food. An ostrich will sometimes swallow large stones, bits of iron and other objects!
A full grown ostrich is usually between two and two and a half meters tall and it weighs between 70 to over 135 kilograms.
Atika Mustafa
Pakistani School
5 G.S.



Elephants

THOUSANDS and thousands of years ago, giant monsters known as "mammoths" roamed the earth. Because they could not bear the hardships, they perished one by one. Only two of those species have remained, and they are the African and Asiatic elephants.
Elephants are the largest land animals. Even though they are so huge, they are patient, gentle and intelligent.
The elephant has an enormously heavy body which may weigh up to five tonnes. Their legs are short and are shaped like strong pillars.
The two ivory tusks which protrude from the upper jaw of an elephants are really overgrown teeth. These tusks are used to dig up roots for food and also as weapons of defense.

Dear Junior readers,

I HOPE you all had a good Eid Holiday — the last holiday of the term meaning exams are well on their way.
Try to develop a study timetable: set up all your subjects and decide how long you should spend on each per evening. Think your timetable out carefully, as some subjects, which may seem easy, could take more time than expected. Avoid studying one single subject an evening, this will be both boring and tiresome.
Take five minutes rest intervals whenever you begin to feel restless. In these few minutes, do not think about your studying, listen to your favourite song, eat a plate of icecream or just relax (do not overdo these rest intervals though, this will cause more harm than good.) When you begin studying again rapidly revise that you did before your break and then begin the new section. This way you will make the information stick in your head and later revision will be fast and easy.
Good luck — I hope to see many "Congratulations for passing your exams" pictures over the next few weeks.
Manal

Ha! Ha!

'My boyfriend says I look like a dishy Italian!' said Miss Conceited.
'He's right,' said her brother.
'Sophia Loren?'
'No — spaghetti!'

'I think it's true when they say television causes violence,' said the small boy.
'What makes you think that?'
'Cos every time I switch it on my Dad clouts me.'

'Is my dinner hot?' asked the excessively late husband.
'It should be,' said his furious wife, 'it's been on the fire since seven o'clock!'

Susannah was watching her big sister covering her face with cream. 'What's that for?' she asked.
'To make me beautiful,' came the reply. Susannah watched in silence as her sister then wiped her face clean.
'Doesn't work, does it?' was the moppet's comment.

Join the dots

Potty!



Firsts and lasts

The last time there were third class carriages on British trains was on the 3rd June, 1956. Since then there have been only first and second class carriages.

At the beginning of the First World War there were only 50 men in the American Air Force.

Volcano first came into the English language because the Roman god of fire, the god of blacksmiths too, was called 'Vulcan'.

The original 'King Kong', the one used in the 1933 film, was only 45 cm (18 inches) tall. It is thanks to clever photography that it appears such a monster on the screen.

The film star, Doris Day, started her showbiz career as a dancer and only changed to being a singer after breaking her leg.

The first crossword puzzle to appear in Britain was in the Sunday Express on 2nd November, 1924.

The last time there was no speed limit in Britain was in 1934.

General George Patton, one of America's great military commanders, who was born on 11 November, 1855, believed that he had first served as a soldier in earlier lives. According to the general he had originally been a soldier in the Greek army commanded by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC, and had even been part of a prehistoric, tribal army.

Only nine nations competed in the first modern Olympic Games held in Athens in 1896.

Our sense of smell is the first of the five we lose as we grow older.

The film star Kirk Douglas was first called Issur Danielovitch Demsky.

The first ship sailed through the Panama Canal on 17th of November, 1913.

Young poets

Mean people

Why are people so mean?
They are never keen about how other people feel for their sorrows and their grieves
They just don't care if others have nothing to wear.
They do nothing but stare leaving them alone and bare.
They can be protected from rain but don't know who's in pain
I just want everyone to share
The blessings of God, which is fair
Hina Yunes Chaudry

MARRIAGE

Marriage is like a cage, one sees the birds outside desperate to get in, And those inside equally desperate to get out.

Marriage is a book of which the first chapter is written in poetry and the remaining chapters in prose.

The trouble with marriage is that while every woman at heart is a mother, every man at heart is a bachelor.

By all means marry, if you get a good wife, You'll become happy
If you get a bad one, you become a philosopher.

Men marry because they are tired, women because they are curious, Finally both are disappointed.

YOU AND ME

Let's live, my love, you and me each day as it comes.
Let's learn a little more, hoping to make things better in love and life.

And, let our cloudy thoughts be after thoughts
Come my love, you and me, shower goodwill everywhere and rain happiness forever
Let us be the sunshine caressing every one with warmth.
Let you and me be truly happy, and real a dream or two along the way.
Let you and me make a habit of reaching out for rainbows, and colour lives with wonderful days

Shaheen S. Shaikh,
Dadar
Bombay

Amazing facts

The southernmost manned lighthouse in the world is Cape Pembroke Lighthouse in the Falkland Islands.

The official cause of death of George IV was listed as rupture of the stomach blood vessels, alcoholic cirrhosis, gout, nephritis and dropsy.

The bayonet is named after the French town Bayonne.

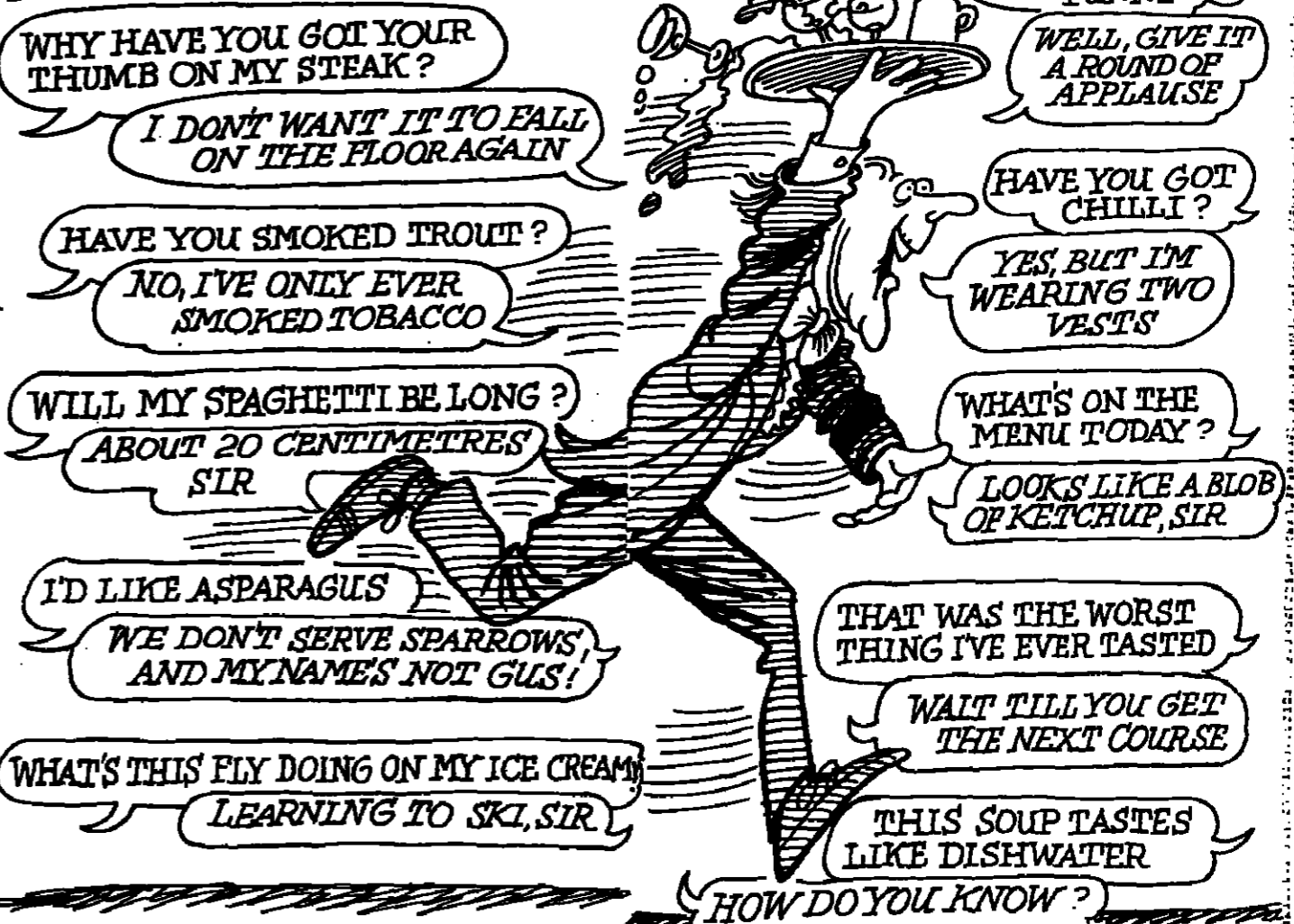
Milan cathedral took 579 years to build and seats a congregation of 40,000.

The official name for Libya is 'SPLAJ', the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The archer fish can hit an insect up to 122 cm away with drops of water squirted from its mouth.

It takes five tons of rock to produce a piece of gold the size of a trouser button.

WAITER WAITER...



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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සැමදිනේ භක්ති
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කුණු කෑම
කිතුල් පැණි, සහ
ජී ලංකා - සැමදිනේ

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(AT5-47142-3)

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KUWAIT City, behind the G.P.O., Al Nageeb Building, Fahd Al Salem St. 2nd Floor, Room 6. One room with tele. facilities for an Indian bachelor to share with an Indian family. Rent KD80. Tele. Johnny 2455445/6/7/8. 6-10.30 pm.
(AT4-47140-3)

SALMIYA, spacious single room, in a 2 bedroom flat, for 2 bachelors, to share with a family. Tele. Yousuf 5611539, 10 am - 12 noon, 7.30 - 9.30 pm.
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RUMATHIYA, brand new villa, CAC with 3 bedrooms, carpeted, 3 bathrooms, beautiful kitchen with attached laundry, covered car parking and a small garden with palm trees. Rent KD350. Tele. Tarweel Hussain, 5620813.
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(AT4-47198-3)

FOR SALE

Cars

IMPALA, 1983 model, AC, automatic gear, blue, hard top, in very good condition. KD1,200 cash. Tele. 4897147 after 5 pm.
(AT5-47127-3)

New in town?

Check the classified pages of the Arab Times for used cars, boats, furniture and electronics.
The bargains will amaze you.

ISUZU Gemini, '83 model, white, automatic. Price negotiable. Tele. Sundar, 5615926, after 6 pm.
(AT4-47200-3)

SUZUKI Swift, 1989, red, 4 months old, 6000 kms, lady driven. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tele. 5333056, 10 am-12 noon: 5623696, 6-10 pm.
(AT5-47150-3)

MAZDA 626, 1986 model, manual, AC, 34,000 kms, in perfect condition. KD1,550 ono. cash. Tele. Mr Tommy 5339137 (answerphone).
(AT5-47160-3)

VOLKSWAGEN Parati, 1985, with AC, stereo, radio. Insured upto October 1989. KD550. Tele. 4675590, Res.
(AT6-47158-2)

TOYOTA Corolla 1984 model, manual, white, in very good condition. Reasonable price. Tele. 2450005 ext. 2093, 7 am - 2 pm, 2443245, after 4 pm.
(AT6-47157-2)

CITROEN BX16 1985, 66,000 kms, automatic with AC and stereo, in excellent condition. Price KD1,000. Tele. Mr Osama 2453830/1/2/9 am - 2 pm.
(AT1-47168-3)

CHRYSLER Imperial, 1982 model, 2 door, automatic, black with sun roof, in perfect condition. Tele. 3920784.
(AT5-47161-3)

FIAT (racing) 1979 model with other specifications and sunroof, in good condition. Tele. 2619641, 4843903 upto 2 pm.
(AT5-47156-3)

Miscellaneous

WINDSURFER, Bahia windglider 6m sail, harness, all accessories, wet suit, roof rack. KD140. Complete. Tele. 4845171 am, 5754745, pm.
(AT6-47169-2)

DECCA colour TV, Muntarbo guitar, amp-speaker, Peavey speakers, Casio CT600 split keyboard, Yamaha mixer, power amp etc. Tele. 3720479.
(AT1-47185-3)

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(AT1-47192-3)

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(AT6-47175-3)

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MAID required for a family with one child, to live-in. Tele. 2401083.
(AT6-47184-2)

MAID required, Filipino/Sri Lankan, for a small family, to live-in. Must speak English and have a transferable residence permit. Tele. 2415415.
(AT4-47197-3)

INDIAN commerce graduate with 14 years experience in accounts, seeks suitable position in a reputed organisation. Tele. 4313068.
(AT6-47136-3)

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PASSPORT No. D-221603 in the name of Mohammad Anwar Khan, Pakistani. Finder please tele 4838930.
(AT4-47205-3)

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(AT6-47135-3)

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(AT4-47196-3)

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(AT4-47197-3)

KUWAITI kittens, five, beautiful, house trained, eight weeks old. Tele. 5316878, after 2.30 pm.
(AT4-47199-2)

CAT, male, very cute, 8 months old. Free to good home. Tele. 5618449, after 3 pm.
(AT6-47176-3)

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(AT5-MUS-TM-3)

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(AT6-47181-3)

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Soviet gymnast takes two golds at European Championships

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, May 8, (AP): Valentin Mogilyi of the Soviet Union captured the pommel horse and vault medals and added a bronze in the parallel bars for the top individual performance yesterday at the men's European Gymnastics Championships.

Igor Korobchinsky, another Soviet gymnast who took the all-around title Saturday ahead of Mogilyi, prevailed in the opening floor exercise at the Globe Arena.

East European gymnasts swept all but one of the 18 medals at stake in the apparatus finals. West German Andreas Agular was the only Western European medalist, placing third in the rings.

Juri Chechi of Italy was fourth in the rings and Johan Jonasson of Sweden, who was fourth and best of the west in the all-around, matched that finish in the high bar routine yesterday.

For Mogilyi, it was the best performance in a major championship. The 24-year-old Red Army soldier has had his ups and downs in recent years. He placed second in the 1985 European all-around, but only made the Soviet team as a reserve in last year's Summer Olympics in Seoul.

Mogilyi scored 9.837 points in winning the pommel horse and collected 9.793 points in the vault.

East Germany picked up two gold

medals, Andreas Wecker winning the high bar and Holger Behrendt taking the rings. Vitali Marintich of the Soviet Union was runnerup in both events.

Wecker was the only other three-time medalist, taking the silver medals in the parallel bars, by Kalofer Hristozov of Bulgaria, and the pommel horse.

The 24-nation championship drew a total of 18,000 fans.

Cavaliers and Hawks knocked out of playoffs

NEW YORK, May 8, (AP): The homecourt advantage didn't pan out for the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Atlanta Hawks. And both teams were eliminated from the National Basketball Association playoffs yesterday.

At Richfield, Ohio, Michael Jordan drove past Craig Ehlo and hit a 15-foot jumper at the buzzer, giving the Chicago Bulls a 101-100 victory over the Cavaliers and a 3-2 triumph in their first-round series.

In Atlanta, Ricky Pierce scored 25 points and Paul Mokeski and Jay Humphries hit key baskets down the stretch as the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Hawks 96-92 in the final game of their best-of-5 series.

The Bulls will open the best-of-7 second round in New York against the Knicks tomorrow night, while the Bucks begin the other Eastern Conference semifinal series at Detroit on Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Lakers, trying for their third straight NBA championship, opened their Western Conference semifinal series by defeating the Seattle SuperSonics 113-102 at the Magic Johnson scored 21 points. The second game will be Wednesday night, also in Inglewood, California.

On Saturday, the Phoenix Suns crushed Golden State 130-103 in the first game of the other Western Conference semifinal, outscoring the Warriors 41-22 in the third period as Tom Chambers scored 13 of his 25 points and rookie guard Dan Majerle had 10 of his 22 in the decisive period.

The Bulls and Bucks crammed plenty of action into the final seconds. First, Ehlo gave Cleveland a 100-99 lead on a driving layup with three seconds left.

But after two timeouts, Jordan got the ball near the top of the circle, drove past Ehlo and leaped at the free-throw line. The winning shot barely touched the back of the rim as it went through for the last of Jordan's 44 points.

"Everyone had been writing us off," said Jordan, who scored 30 points in the second half. "I was very disappointed after we lost Friday night. I was fighting off tears. But I had to get rid of that attitude today."

"Larry Nance did a good job of keeping me from going where I wanted (on the inbound pass from Brad Sellers), so I had to pull off a fake just to get the ball," Jordan said. "Once I got the ball, I penetrated a little and got set up a little. But Ehlo came over and had me covered. I had to hesitate and then I got the shot off. How it went in I don't know."

Ehlo led Cleveland with 24 points, Mark Price had 23 and Ron Harper 22.

Bucks 96, Hawks 92. Mokeski twice gave Milwaukee the lead on layups in the final 3 1/2 minutes, the last with 2:51 to play, putting the Bucks ahead to stay, 87-86.

Fred Roberts made two free throws 30 seconds later, Pierce hit an 18-footer and Humphries scored a breakaway layup, stretching the lead to 93-86.

Atlanta countered with a 3-pointer by Glenn Rivers but Humphries hit two more free throws with 53 seconds left for a 95-89 lead.

Moses Malone, who led the Hawks with 25 points and 16 rebounds, got Atlanta within three points with a 3-point field goal but Humphries hit one of two free throws with eight seconds left.

Free throws were the difference. The Bucks, who led the NBA in free throw shooting, made their first 16 and finished with 26 of 29. Atlanta made only 22 of 35.

Lakers 113, SuperSonics 102. James Worthy had 28 points and 12 rebounds for the Lakers, who didn't go ahead for good until a jump shot by Johnson with 9:51 remaining gave them an 88-87 lead, starting a 16-4 spurt that made it 102-91 with 4:34 to go.

Byron Scott had 18 points and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Mychal Thompson added 16 points each for Los Angeles. Derrick McKey led Seattle with 23 points and Dale Ellis had 19, but only two in the fourth quarter. Xavier McDaniel scored 15 for the Sonics, only two in the second half.

It was the Lakers' ninth straight playoff victory over the Sonics dating back to April 1980.

Somerset and Sussex tie

Essex overcome Derbyshire

LONDON, May 8, (Reuters): Sussex batsman Tony Dodemaise was run out off the last ball as Somerset forced a tie in their Sunday League cricket match at Taunton.

Having scored eight runs from the first five balls of Peter Roebuck's final over, Sussex needed two from the last delivery to match victory. But a sharp return by Graham Rose beat Dodemaise as he went for the second and the points were shared.

Somerset had earlier made 182 for nine in their 40 overs and Sussex reached the same score for the loss of seven wickets.

In an equally tight finish at Chelmsford, another last ball run out gave Essex a one run win over Derbyshire.

This time three runs were needed from the final delivery. Steve Goldsmith struck the ball firmly to the on-side but Paul Newman was run out going for the second run which would have meant a tie.

Ian Botham had another setback in his bid to win back an England place, bowled by Phillip DeFreitas without scoring as League champions Worcestershire were beaten by 14 runs by Lancashire.

DeFreitas also bowled Graeme Hick for four and Wor-



Phillip DeFreitas



Graham Rose

cestershire ended on 188 for nine in reply to Lancashire's 202 for eight.

Results

At Newport: Gloucestershire beat Glamorgan by three wickets. Glamorgan 171 for six in 100 overs. Gloucestershire 173 for seven in 39.1 overs.

Gloucester four points.

At Southampton: Hampshire beat Kent by nine wickets. Kent 156 in 38 overs (S. Hinks 44). Hampshire 158 for one in 35.3 overs (P. Terry 79 not out, M. Nicholas 52). Hampshire four points.

At Headingley: Yorkshire

beat Nottinghamshire by 60 runs. Yorkshire 201 for four in 100 overs (D. Bairstow 65 not out, R. Blakey 61). Nottinghamshire 141 in 36.4 overs (D. Randall 55). Yorkshire four points.

At Lord's: Middlesex beat Surrey by 60 runs. Middlesex 221 for five in 100 overs (J. Carr 86, M. Gatting 80). Surrey 161 in 38.3 overs (J. Carr 49 for 21). Middlesex four points.

At Northampton: Northamptonshire beat Warwickshire by seven wickets. Warwickshire 171 for nine in 100 overs. Northamptonshire 172 for three in 38 overs (A. Lamb 80 not out, D.

Capel 40 not out). Northants four points.

At Taunton: Somerset v Sussex match tied. Somerset 182 for nine in 100 overs (R. Harden 61, P. Roebuck 52). Sussex 182 for seven in 100 overs. Somerset and Sussex two points.

At Worcester: Lancashire beat Worcestershire by 14 runs. Lancashire 202 for eight in 100 overs (N. Fairbrother 64). Worcestershire 188 for nine in 100 overs (S. O'Shaughnessy 69). Lancashire four points.

At Chelmsford: Essex beat Derby by one run. Essex 154 for eight in 100 overs. Derbyshire 153 for eight in 100 overs (P. Bowler 58). Essex four points.

Standings

English Sunday League cricket table after the latest round of matches (tabulate under: played, won, lost, tied, no result, points):

Essex	3	3	0	0	12
Lancashire	3	2	0	1	10
Middlesex	3	2	1	0	8
Surrey	3	2	1	0	8
Hampshire	3	2	1	0	8
Derbyshire	3	1	1	1	6
Northants	2	1	0	1	6
Gloucestershire	2	1	1	0	4
Kent	2	1	1	0	4
Yorkshire	2	1	1	0	4
Glamorgan	2	0	1	1	2
Warwickshire	2	0	1	1	2
Somerset	2	0	1	1	2
Sussex	2	0	1	1	2
Leicestershire	2	0	1	1	2
Nottinghamshire	2	0	2	0	2
Worcestershire	2	0	1	1	2

Mariners take Orioles to task

Athletics edge past Tigers

NEW YORK, May 8, (AP): Alvin Davis had three hits and drove in three runs for Seattle as the Mariners defeated the Baltimore Orioles 5-3 yesterday.

Bill Swift, Jerry Reed and Dennis Powell combined on a six-hitter.

Seattle, which Saturday night swept its first doubleheader since 1981, has now won six straight games, something it had not done since June 20-29, 1985, when the Mariners won a club record eight straight.

Bill Swift, 1-0, allowed six hits in 5 2/3 innings for his first victory since last October 1 against Texas. Dennis Powell, the third Seattle pitcher, finished the combined six-hitters for his first save.

Jose Bautista, 2-3, allowed seven hits and four runs in five innings as Baltimore lost its fourth straight.

Indians 5, Twins 4

Indians 12, Twins 1

Minnesota continued its

collapse as Cleveland got 25 hits off seven pitchers and set the Twins to their 13th loss in 15 games.

Dave Clark hit a pinch-homer leading off ninth inning of the first game after Minnesota had rallied for three runs in the top of the inning. Clark then drove a three-run homer in the fifth inning of the second game that gave the Indians a 6-0 lead.

By the end of the second game, the Twins were using outfielder Dan Gladden of the mound. He gave up two hits and one run in the eighth inning.

Kirby Puckett was 0-9 in the doubleheader. He finished the first five years of his Major League career with 1,062 hits. Joe Medwick has the most hits in the first five years of his career, getting 1,064 from 1932-37.

Athletics 5, Tigers 4

Mark McGwire's homer snapped a seventh-inning tie as Oakland won for the ninth time in 13

games.

Bob Welch, 4-2, gave up six hits in six innings, walking three and striking out four. Dennis Eckersley finished for his 10th save in 11 opportunities, allowing Lou Whitaker's seventh home run.

Charles Hudson, 0-3, allowed three hits and two runs in 1 1/3 innings after relieving Jeff Robinson. Detroit has lost five of its last six games and nine of 11.

Results

Results				
American League				
Boston	9	Texas		5
1st Cleveland	5	Minnesota		4
2nd Cleveland	12	Minnesota		1
Oakland	5	Detroit		4
Chicago	6	New York		2
Milwaukee	8	Kansas City		2
Seattle	5	Baltimore		3
California at Toronto postponed — rain.				
National League				
Houston	5	New York		0
Atlanta	7	Montreal		1
Philadelphia	5	Cincinnati		0
Chicago	4	Los Angeles		2
San Diego	3	Pittsburgh		1
San Francisco	5	St. Louis		1

Lauritzen takes overall lead in Tour de Trump

ALLEN TOWN, Pennsylvania, May 8, (AP): Dutchman Henk Lubberding won the 123-mile (197-kilometre) New York to Lehigh Valley Road yesterday, but Dag-Otto Lauritzen of Norway became the overall leader of the inaugural Tour de Trump cycling race.

Lubberding, the third overall leader in three days, placed second in the stage to overtake amateur Viatcheslav Ekinov of the Soviet Union.

Lubberding, 35, the oldest rider in the field, was timed in 5 hours, 40 minutes, 13 seconds in the longest race in the 10-day event. The course began near Central Park in Manhattan, progressed through New Jersey and is now in eastern Pennsylvania.

With Lauritzen, third-place finisher Paul Curran of England and Colombian Ricardo Wilches, Lubberding built a 45-second margin after 51 miles (82 kilometres).

Gao completes double



Gao performs during the finals of the springboard diving. (Reuters wirephoto)

INDIANAPOLIS, May 8, (Reuters): China's brilliant Olympic champion Gao Min captured the 3-metre springboard title yesterday to become the only individual double winner after the fifth and final day of World Cup Diving competition.

Gao's 3-metre triumph followed her victory in the 1-metre event on Saturday.

Yesterday, she took the lead on the second of five optional dives—a back, two and half in figures, somersault in tuck position—and pulled away to win with 323.46 points.

Irina Lashko of the Soviet Union finished second and American Kelly McCormick was third.

The Chinese, who dominated the team competition by winning five of the six segments, also topped the individual competition with four gold medals, two silvers and a bronze.

The United States had two golds, one silver and two bronze medals, while the Soviet Union earned three silver and two bronze medals.

The other bronze medal went to West Germany.

Fifteen-year-old Xiong Ni gave China their final gold as he led from the start to win the 10-metre event. He totalled 461.19 points to beat runnerup Vladimir Timoshinin of the Soviet Union by nearly 20 points.

American Mark Lenzi, who has been diving for just four years, took top honours in the 1-metre event.

Lenzi, who is a converted wrestler, led all the way and finished with 402.18 points. Valeri Statsenko of the Soviet Union was second followed by American Pat Evans.

Despite a world class field, no perfect 10s were awarded by the international jury panels during the meet.

The one-metre was included in the world cup for the first time as an experiment by FINA, as the international governing body for the sport decides if it should be added as an Olympic event.

Chinese diving coach Xu Yimin said he had hoped his team would do even better here. "I had expected better performances. We were not prepared as well as our candidates were before the Seoul Olympics," he said.

Allison wins his second Nascar 500

TALLADEGA, Alabama, May 8, (UPI): Davey Allison grabbed the lead eight laps from the finish yesterday and held off late charges by Terry Labonte and Mark Martin to win his second Nascar Winston 500.

Allison, 28, of nearby Hueytown, Alabama, passed a fading Morgan Shepherd on lap 180 and then fought off Labonte and Martin to win by two-tenths of a second. Allison, Labonte and Martin were driving Ford Thunderbirds.

The victory earned Allison \$98,676 and made him eligible with Daytona 500 champion Darrell Waltrip for the Winston million, a \$1 million prize given to any driver who wins two of Nascar's three biggest events: the Daytona 500, Winston 500 and World 600.

It was the first victory of the season for Allison, who won the Winston 500 in 1987.

"This is my hometown track, and I'm proud to be here," Allison said. "It's been a real up-and-down year for us, and this is a great place for us to get our first win."

Allison started from the second position and led nine different times for a total of 94 of the 188 laps. He averaged 155.869 mph (250.840 kph) in winning and earned an extra \$10,000 for leading at the halfway point of the race.

The race took three hours, 12 minutes and 30 seconds to complete. There were 27 lead changes among 11 different drivers and seven caution flags for a total of 27 laps.

The final caution followed an eight-car pileup on lap 174. Shepherd came out of the caution in first place but soon surrendered the lead to Allison and finished fourth.

Waltrip was fifth — the highest finish by a driver in the new Chevrolet Lumina, which made its Nascar debut. Ken Schrader was sixth, followed by Harry Gant, Dale Earnhardt, Neil Bonnett and Rusty Wallace.

The final caution flag was triggered when Michael Waltrip spun between the third and fourth turns, causing a chain-reaction pile-up involving Phil Barkdoll, Hut Stricklin, Chad Little, Ernie Irvan, Larry Pearson, Ricky Rudd and Kyle Petty. None of the drivers received serious injuries.

Strijbos retains championship lead

OSS, Netherlands, May 8, (Reuters): Dutchman Dave Strijbos retained his lead in the World 125cc Motocross Championship after a brave performance on his Suzuki secured him second and third places in the Dutch leg of the series yesterday.

The former title-holder was still recovering from a cartilage operation last week after twisting his knee in Portugal two weeks ago.

MONTE CARLO, May 8, (Reuters): Stefano Modena and Martin Brundle put a smile on Jack Brabham's face here yesterday when they finished third and sixth in the Monaco Grand Prix motor race.

Brabham, the great Australian driver who launched his own team in the early 1960s, was in the Mediterranean principality to see his son David drive in Saturday's Formula Three race.

But he found good reason to watch with delight yesterday as the two cars bearing his name threatened to upset the McLaren domination of an incident-packed race won convincingly by Brazilian world champion Ayrton Senna.

Senna finished more than 52 seconds ahead of his team-mate Alain Prost of France with Modena third ahead of fellow Italians Alex Caffi, in a Dallara, and Michele Alboreto, in a Tyrrell. The McLarens both lapped the entire field.

"I am delighted to see the team reformed and doing so well back in Formula One," said Brabham, who won the World Drivers' Championship in 1959, 1960 and 1966. "And I am even more delighted with their result and showing today. It has been quite fantastic."

Both Brabham drivers proved their talent and their determination by finishing in the points after having survived the Thursday morning ordeal of pre-qualifying on the twisting streets of Monaco.

The team was absent from Formula One last year when it was sold and reformed with Swiss finance, but without any involvement from Brabham himself. Brabham formed the team in the early 1960s and in 1966 drove his own car to both the drivers' and the Constructors' World Championships.

Had it not been for a battery problem which forced Briton Brundle into the pits after 48 laps of the 77-lap race, the result



Ayrton Senna (left) and Alain Prost on the victory podium after the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

may have been even better for the Brabham team.

Brundle said: "I am very disappointed to finish only sixth. I could have finished second. I was chasing Prost and I was within seven seconds of him and catching him when I had the battery trouble."

"The problem was I had to get out of the car for it to be changed because it was underneath me. Otherwise I am sure I could have finished really well."

After re-starting 10th, Brundle drove brilliantly to snatch sixth place on the final lap after Italian Ivan Capelli retired his march with an electrical problem.

The Brabham team's success was shared by their tyre suppliers Pirelli and

their engine suppliers Judd—as noted by disappointment Ferrari driver Nigel Mansell of Britain.

He said: "Martin drove brilliantly and really put me under pressure in the early part of the race. It shows that the Pirelli tyres are a real threat to Goodyear now."

Modena, who like Caffi, scored his first world championship points, was delighted. "It is a fantastic result," he said. "But we have more to come from the car and the team."

Senna's victory put him equal with Prost on points at the head of the world championships standings—in first place on races won — and wiped away the memory of last year's performance in the principality when he crashed while lead-



Senna (left) showers Prost (right) and Princess Caroline of Monaco (with hat) with champagne following his victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

ing. "It was impossible to overtake and he cost me at least 10 seconds. It was unforgivable."

While Senna was able to thread his car through the traffic on the 77-lap race—reduced by one lap because of an aborted start when Briton Derek Warwick stalled his Arrows on the grid—Prost was beset by problems with backmarkers and admitted he settled for second long before the end.

In addition to his trouble with Arnoux, Prost also lost more than 25 seconds when he was forced to stop at the Loews hairpin because of a collision between Italian Andrea de Cesaris, in a Dallara, and Brazilian Nelson Piquet, in a Lotus.

"I cannot understand that sort of driv-

ing," he said. "It was impossible to overtake and he cost me at least 10 seconds. It was unforgivable."

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SPORTS

Anti-apartheid group threatens protests

LONDON, May 8. (Reuters): Anti-apartheid leader Sam Ramsamy threatened protest action today against countries which send players to South Africa's Rugby Union centenary celebrations in August.

Ramsamy, leader of the London-based Organisation SANROC, which led disruption of the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, said: "These celebrations are about 100 years of racist rugby."

He said SANROC would take action against countries which had given the go-ahead to players to take part in the

celebrations unless those countries reconsidered.

Scotland and Wales both said last week they would not stand in the way of players who wanted to take part in the six matches in August.

Ramsamy said: "We shall be urging the rugby authorities to change their mind and asking them to show us the same courtesy they have given South Africa by passing on our message to their players."

"We are hopeful they will reconsider. Rugby has an obligation not to jeopardise international competition for other sports."

"If they refuse, protest action will focus on all countries sending players."

"New Zealand has gone out of its way to cut links with South Africa and in fact has been quite ruthless. But we don't know what action the African countries might take, so action over the (1990) Commonwealth Games cannot be ruled out."

The International Rugby Board gave South Africa permission in April to invite players through their national unions to make up a composite international XV as part of the centenary celebrations.



Riot policemen and rampaging fans clash in Athens' Olympic stadium. (Reuters wirephoto)

Napoli annoyed over Maradona's sudden absence

ROME, May 8. (AP): Napoli management was visibly peeved with team leader Diego Armando Maradona after the Argentine midfielder failed to show up for yesterday's away match at Bologna.

"I'm not obligated to comment on this," team president Corrado Ferlaino responded to reporters at halftime. "I've nothing to say. Nothing."

Without Maradona, second place Napoli had to struggle to a 1-1 draw against a game Bologna team. A win at Bologna would have allowed the team to shave a point off of League-leading Internazionale of Milan's six point lead. Inter tied 1-1 away from home against Juventus of Turin to climb to 46 points.

Last year's champion Milan, which beat Torino 2-1, is in third place with 35 points.

This season, Maradona has sat out six matches with a series of persistent injuries. In the 21 matches which Maradona has played, the team has racked up 35 points for an average of nearly 1.7 points per match. In its six matches without its star midfielder, Napoli has averaged just 0.7 point per game, with four draws and two losses.

Maradona's absence was as sudden as it was unexpected. The Argentine played in his team's two matches last week and also participated in Napoli's Friday workout. But on Saturday morning, team doctor Emilio Acampora examined Maradona in his Napoli apartment.

The athlete had suffered muscle spasms in his back after Friday's workout, and Acampora recommended that Maradona skip the Bologna match in order to be at 100 per cent for his team's UEFA Cup final match against Stuttgart of West Germany on May 17.

Czechoslovakia need big victory over Luxembourg

PRAGUE, May 8. (Reuters): Czechoslovakia, World Cup runners-up in 1934 and 1962 but with a poor record in the competition since 1970, need to deal ruthlessly with Group Seven weaklings Luxembourg in their European qualifying match tomorrow.

The Czechoslovaks are likely to be involved in a tight tussle with Portugal, and possibly Switzerland, for the second qualifying spot behind Belgium and the goals that these teams take off Luxembourg could be decisive.

"Belgium now seem to be sure of their place in the World Cup final in Italy, after they beat us 2-1 in Brussels ten days ago," Czechoslovak manager Jozef Venglos said yesterday.

Czechoslovakia, third in the section behind Belgium and Portugal, will badly miss striker Milan Luhovy, who scored in the Brussels match. He suffered a broken left leg in a League game last week.

Luxembourg coach Paul Philipp will also be without a key figure, Roby Langers, his most experienced player, having stayed put with his club Orleans who play Monaco in the quarterfinals of the French Cup tomorrow.

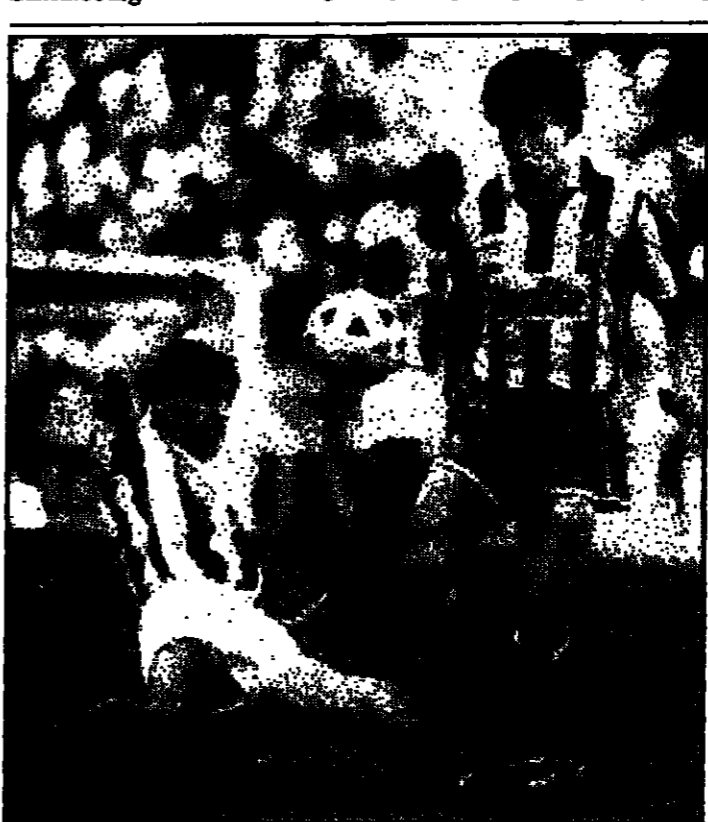
Philipp will also miss Theo Scholten and Joel Geoff through injury. Scholten broke his nose in a League match last week and Geoff pulled a muscle.

Czechoslovakia (probable) — Jan Stejskal, Michal Bilek, Josef Chovanec, Frantisek Straka, Ivan Hasek, Václav Nemecek, Miloslav Kadlec, Jan Kocian, Lubomir Moravcik, Tomas Skuhravy, Stanislav Griga.

Luxembourg (from) — John van Rijswijk, Paul Koch, Hubert Meunier, Rene Scheuer, Carlo Weis, Pierre Petry, Marcel Bossi, Jean-Paul Girres, Guy Hellers, Armin Krings, Denis Scuto, Mark Thome, Patrick Morocutti, Jeff Saibene, Theo Malget, Benny Reiter, Mark Birsens.

Group Seven standings (tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Belgium	4	2	2	0	4	2	6
Portugal	3	2	1	0	5	2	5
Czechoslovakia	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
Switzerland	3	1	0	2	5	5	2
Luxembourg	3	0	0	3	1	7	0



Atletico Madrid's Brazilian striker Baltazar de Moraes (right) is tackled by Sociedad's Albores Gorriz. (Reuters wirephoto)

Real Madrid lucky to draw

MADRID, May 8. (Reuters): Spanish soccer championship leaders Real Madrid gained a fortune 1-1 draw in a rugged clash at Athletic Bilbao yesterday which left them five points clear of Barcelona.

The Basque side dominated almost throughout and treated Real strikers Emilio Butragueno and Hugo Sanchez to some harsh tackles.

Liverpool's win takes them into the final of the FA Cup, English soccer's showpiece event, where they will play local rivals Everton later this month.

"I think that's what everyone wanted — probably the country as well as ourselves," said John Aldridge.

Results

Real Oviedo	3	Elche	0
Espanol	0	Valencia	0
Malaga	0	Osasuna	1
Cadix	0	Sporting	3
Athletic Bilbao	3	Real Sociedad	0
Athletico Bilbao	1	Real Madrid	1
Logrones	0	Real Zaragoza	2
Celta	1	Real Valladolid	1



Ivan Lendl

TENNIS

Provis upset in 1st round of Italian Open

ROME, May 8. (Reuters): Nicole Provis became the first seed to go out of the Italian Open women's tennis championships which started today, blown away by a capricious centre court wind and a disco-loving teenager.

Australian Provis, the ninth seed, was knocked out in the first round by 18-year-old Czechoslovak Petra Langrova, 6-7 6-3 6-0 in front of only a handful of spectators who turned out for the low-key first day.

Langrova, ranked 70th in the world, made the top 100 only last year but demonstrated her promise two weeks ago when she beat Soviet Natalia Zvereva, the world number eight, in straight sets in Tampa.

Strong gusts of wind on a hot, sunny afternoon at the Foro Italico, tormented Provis, 19, who wailed in frustration after double faulting to give Langrova her first break of the final set.

"The wind was a problem, especially for the first serve," agreed Langrova who likes to listen to Madonna tapes on a personal stereo when she comes off court.

Yzaga surprises Chang

NEW YORK, May 8. (UPI): Ivan Lendl thrashed Andre Agassi 6-2, 6-3 yesterday to gain the final of the \$602,500 Eagle Tournament of Champions against Jaime Yzaga.

Lendl, a two-time winner of the championship, bombarded Agassi with nine aces, including three in a row, and required a mere 69 minutes to dispose of the defending champion.

Yzaga, 21, of Peru upset Michael Chang 6-4, 6-3, to become only the third unseeded player to reach the final in the 10-year history of this championship.

Lendl, the top seed and world's No. 1 player, and Yzaga, ranked No. 56, will be meeting for the third time in the final this evening. Lendl has won both meetings, although Yzaga captured a set each time.

Lendl, beating Agassi for the fourth time in as many outings, was in total control on a cold, windy afternoon, breaking service in the first and fifth games of each set.

"The bottom line is nobody likes the wind," he said. "You

just have to be out there and not be frustrated by it."

Agassi contended that Lendl, with his strength, had the advantage in these conditions because "he can drive the ball through the wind."

"I have a long way to go before I can be put in a category like him," said Agassi, 19, the third seed.

Lendl jumped to a 5-1 lead in the opening set, and even in the third game, when Agassi held, Lendl had three break points.

The crusher for Agassi came in the fourth game, when he achieved his only break point. But Lendl responded with three consecutive aces to hold service.

"It's real frustrating when that happens," Agassi said. "The serve is where he walks away the winner."

Lendl said the three aces "gave me confidence on my serve and Andre started worrying even more about it."

After Lendl jumped to a 4-1 lead in the second set, Agassi managed to break for the only time and then held his own serve to narrow the deficit to 4-3.

Lendl, though, took the next two games with the loss of two points to end the contest.

"I was pleasantly surprised," Lendl said. "I didn't expect myself to cope with the power that well. That means I'm moving well. I felt I was serving well, even with the wind and the sun. I enjoyed my serve."

From 4-4 in the opening set, Yzaga swept six consecutive games, putting him up 4-0 in the second set. Chang, the eighth seed, staged a mild comeback by winning the next three games before Yzaga took the final two with the loss of two points.

"The conditions were very hard, but it didn't affect my game," Yzaga said. "I played well and moved him around well."

Yzaga, who has won three Grand Prix titles in his career, the last at Itapirica, Brazil, in 1988, admitted surprise at reaching the final.

"I never expected it," he said. "I came here to play a couple of matches and get ready for Rome (May 15), but I started playing better and better every match."

Inkster defends crown with ease

CHESAPEAKE, Va., May 8. (Reuters): Juli Inkster played 28 holes on the final day of the rain-marred Crestar Classic and came away with a five-stroke victory to repeat as champion of the \$300,000 women's golf tournament.

Inkster played 10 holes in the early morning to finish her second round and then returned to the course three hours later to tee up for the final round, which she toured in the three-under 69 for a six-under-par total of 210.

Liselotte Neumann of Sweden and Beth Daniel, who both shot final-round 74s, tied for second place at 215.

"I am proud of myself for defending," Inkster said.

"The toughest part of my whole day was coming out this morning and finishing up the second round," said Inkster who was one-over-par for those 10 holes.

"The conditions this afternoon were pretty bad too, but I had a lot of momentum. I didn't feel like anyone would run away with the tournament so I felt that if I could make a lot of pars and maybe a couple of birdies, I'd be in good shape."

Inkster received \$45,000 for the victory, her second of the year and 13th of her career.

Ryder Cup pressure will be on Europeans: Ballesteros

CHEPSTOW, Wales, May 8. (Reuters): Seve Ballesteros has no doubts — the pressure will be on the Europeans in defence of the Ryder Cup in September.

After his impressive triumph in the European Matchplay Golf Championship yesterday, the world number one spoke about the team's prospects for September's home clash against the Americans at the Belfry.

"It is going to be very difficult this year. The pressure will be on our side because we won the last two times," he said. "I know we can win again but it is going to be a big battle."

Ballesteros said it would be important for the Europeans to be leading after the foursomes and four-ball matches of the first two days.

"If we are level, or even behind, going into the singles on the last day, it will mean trouble for us," he said.

"In 1987 we had a big lead going into the singles and still it looked for a while like we could lose."

Ballesteros said he expected to be consulted by European captain Tony Jacklin on the three choices for the 12-man team outside the nine automatic qualifiers after the German Open on August 27.



Seve Ballesteros

Rival fans in harmony at disaster match replay

Liverpool supporters back team's decision to play

MANCHESTER, England, May 8. (Reuters): Rival English soccer fans joined in harmony yesterday as Liverpool and Nottingham Forest replayed a match interrupted last month by a disaster that claimed 95 lives.

A crowd of only 38,000 — 13,000 below capacity — watched Liverpool sweep to a 3-1 victory in a FA Cup semifinal overshadowed by memories of Britain's worst sporting tragedy.

At Manchester United's Old Trafford stadium, Nottingham supporters passed a 50-metre tickertape strip in red and white — the colours of both clubs — to Liverpool supporters in adjacent terracing.

The whole crowd joined to sing "You'll Never Walk Alone," the Liverpool club anthem.

Three weeks ago, 95 Liverpool fans were crushed to death when late-arriving spectators swept through a stadium gate and surged on to a crowded terrace at Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield, northern England.

Thousands of tickets remained unsold for yesterday's rescheduled match in Manchester, which began with a minute's



A young Forest fan leans in the open gate of the crowd fencing at Old Trafford. (Reuters wirephoto)

silence. Players wore black armbands and match tickets were edged with black.

"It may be people who were in the crowd at Hillsborough and

who had first option to buy tickets thought it would be emotionally too much for them," said assistant chief constable David Phillips, in charge of policing the

match.

Police delayed the kick-off by 15 minutes to avoid the risk of another crush as many fans were delayed in getting to the stadium

by traffic holdups.

Police segregated fans inside and outside the ground but left gates in perimeter fences open to prevent a repetition of Hillsborough, where many supporters were trapped against cage fencing at the front of a packed terrace.

Liverpool fans at the match backed their team's decision to continue in the competition.

"The game had to go on, football goes, life goes on," said Keith Wilkinson of Liverpool.

After his team's victory, Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish embraced his players and the whole team ran a lap of honour to salute their thousands of swaying, chanting fans.

"I think everybody was willing us to win after what happened. We played mostly out of respect to the people who died at Hillsborough," Dalglish said.

Liverpool's win takes them into the final of the FA Cup, English soccer's showpiece event, where they will play local rivals Everton later this month.

"I think that's what everyone wanted — probably the country as well as ourselves," said John Aldridge.

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